

Inflation rate at 19.1% highest level since 1976

ation is at its highest for four years; the 1.4 cent increase in the retail prices index in February sent the annual inflation rate up to 19.1 cent and it seems likely to go over 20 per cent in June. Manufacturers are under severe pressure in increased costs and their ability to absorb n is limited by the squeeze on profits.

More price rises in pipeline

David Blake
Economics Editor
Another big rise in prices in February sent the annual inflation rate up to 19.1 per cent last month, the highest for four years. The inflationary picture is certain to get worse, the annual rate of price rises likely to go over 20 cent by June; but after there should be some news for the Government in the impact of its increases plus-added tax last June apart from the retail price index, inflation is likely to remain well into double digits until 1982. The 1.4 per cent increase in index in February under the inflationary pressures Chancellor has to contend as he draws up his budget for presentation to Parliament on March 26. The special effects of national food and discounted price movements over the six months are examined, as is usually taken as the driving rate of inflation, was moving up in February 1.8 per cent at an annual rate compared with 1.5 per cent in January. Further increases are in the pipeline. Wholesale prices set at the factory gate have been rising at an annual rate of 15 per cent over the past months and the manufacturers themselves have experienced even more severe pressure on their costs. As a result their profits have been severely squeezed, limiting their absorption of increases in the cost of raw materials or in material and fuel costs. They are going up at an alarming rate, with the annual rate, Table, page 20

start with profits and cash flow better than planned. But the national engineering strike from July to early October reversed all this progress, costing the company about £50m. In addition, because the strike did not affect many of BL's competitors, its market share was severely affected. This led to the current lay-offs. Had man-hours lost due to internal strikes not been well down the deficit would have been very much higher.

With the four-month-long impasse results yesterday Sir Edward Edwards, the chairman, had more dismal news. He said that BL Cars would suffer further loss this year. He also revealed that at the end of his board supported by Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and other government ministers, he had agreed to stay on as chairman at least the end of this year. His three-year secondment from the Chloride group, due to expire in eight months' time.

S boxing champion dies in air crash

He saw, March 14.—A Polish boxer crashed while approaching Warsaw airport today, killing all 87 on board, including nine United States boxing stars. Sixteen boxers and six managers, staff, doctors, nurses and referees were on the Pan American flight en route from New York to a two-day match with Poland's national team, a spokesman for the United States Amateur Boxing Union said. The mayor of Warsaw died two days of mourning. The Soviet Union said the Ilyushin-62 crashed two miles from the airport in the middle of a nineteenth-century estate which is surrounded by earthworks and lies close to modern military installations. A Polish news agency said the aircraft was 100 yards above the runway at Okecie airport when it crashed. There were 77 passengers and crew of 10.—Reuters.

U.S. deaths: Eighteen American soldiers were killed afternoon when a United States Air Force transport aircraft crashed near the Incirlik base in southern Turkey. Ankara Correspondent

Summer time begins officially at 2 am Greenwich Time tomorrow. It will be put

L swings from profit to loss of £122.2m

The move has been expected for some time as was Sir Michael's hint that he may not continue in the "24-hours-a-day job" as both chairman and chief executive. He said he was not totally committed to do all the things he had been doing and was absolutely flexible about which office he should hold.

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Attempts to organize a boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow are not being taken lightly by the Russians. Mr Vladimir Popov, a deputy head of the Soviet Olympic organizing committee, said: "They are seen by the Soviet Union as a threat not

just to the Moscow games but to the Olympic movement as a whole. Mr Popov, a former Deputy Minister of Culture, said the boycott campaign was in breach of all the rules and traditions of the Olympic Charter.

The unhappy saga of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill appeared to have ended in the Commons with its supporters being criticized for having mishandled it. All hopes were lost for the strongly supported compromise for the lower time limit of 24 weeks; and the chances of the measure being discussed again this session are remote.

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HOME NEWS

Eight arrests as egg-throwing demonstrators confront Mrs Thatcher on Hull visit

From Ronald Kershaw

Eight people were arrested for alleged disorderly conduct in scuffles with police at Selby yesterday when demonstrators greeted the Prime Minister on her tour of Yorkshire and Humberside.

Main trouble spots were outside the Royal Station Hotel, Hull, where Mrs Thatcher met local newspaper editors and representatives of the fishing industry, and the tall factory of Smith and Nephew, suppliers of medical instruments, where about 250 employees out of the 2,000 workforce took the afternoon off to protest at government policies.

From a crowd of about 200 demonstrators, mostly students, outside the hotel, eggs were thrown and hit Mrs Thatcher's car.

Earlier in the day striking steel workers, militant miners and angry housewives set out to confront the Prime Minister on her tour of Yorkshire and Humberside. Three coaches and a fleet of cars carried demonstrators from Rotherham, Sheffield and South Yorkshire mining villages to the Selby coalfield, where Mrs Thatcher

went down the 1,000ft Wistow shaft, the first of ten to serve the 600m Selby mining complex.

Country roads approaching the Wistow workings were closed and about 500 police from North Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, West Yorkshire and Derbyshire, aided by a task force and mounted police, were on hand to control expected crowds. In the event about only 200 steel pickets turned up. Not only outnumbered, they were also outwitted and found themselves demonstrating on an empty approach road to the National Coal Board site. Mrs Thatcher having entered from the opposite direction.

At Wistow Mrs Thatcher went underground in a kibble, a metal bucket designed to carry men and materials in the shaft.

Commenting on the Southend by-election result, she said: "I would have preferred we had a bigger majority. Don't forget I have been on the other side and the thing that counts is whether you win or lose, and we won."

Mrs Thatcher said she had not seen the pickets but said hope it will come to an end very quickly. Quite apart from

the difficulty of the British Steel Corporation getting orders back many companies have been without income. It must be very tough on them."

She said she was very worried for wives of steelworkers on restricted social security benefits.

At Wistow Mrs June Smith, a farmer's wife, was easing her tractor along a picker-crowded lane when she ran over the foot of Mr Alan Widdowson, of Darnall, Sheffield. He was not seriously injured.

On Mrs Thatcher's next call, a sugar factory at Howden Dyke, near Selby, the pickets went ahead in their coaches and greeted her with jeers; a woman threw an egg which missed the Prime Minister's car.

The visit to Smith and Nephew was a last-minute change of plan when the Prime Minister's call at Reckitts household toiletries plant was called off by the firm because ASTMS members were striking over redundancy measures.

The Prime Minister agreed to meet a deputation of employers, unions and dockers board people to discuss the problems of the port of Hull. No date was fixed.

Southend suggests that fickle voters have ended Government honeymoon

By Ivor Crewe

Southend, East, gave Conservatives their least joyful by-election victory for many years.

In spite of only a modest drop in turnout, 40 per cent of their general election supporters deserted. The 12.9 per cent swing to Labour was the second largest in any by-election since Stratford 17 years ago.

More disturbing for the Conservatives, it came unprecedently soon into their term of office. Ten months into the Heath Government the by-election swing to Labour was much smaller, only 4 to 5 per cent.

One compensation for the Conservatives is that part of their trouble arose from the strictly local factor of fielding a conspicuous outsider to follow a long-standing MP. Recent polls suggest that in the country as a whole the anti-Conservative swing is 7 to 8 per cent.

Another crumb of comfort is that in the general election the pro-Conservative swing in

Southend, East, as in most of Essex, was above the national average. A sharpish return of the pendulum might have been expected anyway.

The losing parties both have grounds to be pleased. In a constituency where they tend to poll close to their national average, the Liberals doubled their vote from 13 per cent to 25 per cent.

The rise was sharper than at the two earlier by-elections of Manchester, Central (+8.8 per cent) and Hertfordshire, South-West (+7.4 per cent), and better than suggested by their 18 per cent standing in recent polls. It has also come much earlier under this government than under Mr Heath's, when there was little sign of a Liberal revival for nearly three years.

Labour's pleasure will be partly one of relief. They had reason to fear a loss of support, either through their internal but very public wranglings, or by "tactical" switching to the Liberal by some of their supporters, as happened in safe seats.

Conservative seats at by-elections in 1973. In the event their vote share rose by 6.5 per cent to produce their best result in the constituency since 1966.

The result offers three general thoughts. First, local constituency associations select outsiders, especially recently defeated ministers, at their peril.

Secondly, electors have begun the 1980s in as fickle a mood as they showed throughout the 1970s.

Thirdly, the predicted Liberal climb back is well under way. It has started sooner, gathering greater speed, and from a higher base than under previous Conservative governments.

Leading article, page 15

SOUTHEND, EAST

The results were:

| | 1960 | 1979 | Change |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| Cons | 58.8% | 56.1% | -2.3% |
| Lab | 35.6% | 29.1% | +6.5% |
| Lib | 25.1% | 13.1% | +12% |
| Net Front | — | 7.7% | — |
| | | | |
| Britain | 1.5% | — | — |
| Anti-EEC | 0.6% | — | — |
| Ind Lib | 0.3% | — | — |
| Public Safety | 0.1% | — | — |
| Majority | 430 | — | — |
| | | | |
| Electorate | 62.5% 70,106 | 70.7% 57,037 | -7.6% |
| | 57,027 | 57,037 | -10% |

The Public Safety, Ind Lib, and Anti-EEC candidates lost their deposits.

General election, May, 1979. Sir S. McAdden (C) 22,413; T. N. Wright (Lab) 14,638; J. Hull (L) 5,244; P. Twomey (Nat. Front) 576; majority 10,774.

Mr Taylor and his wife, Sheila, finding the world a happier place after his by-election win.

Solti sweeps 'Grammy' Awards for Decca

The United States National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences has awarded Decca half of its ten classical citations. Of the five Decca awards, three are prestigious recordings which feature

Sir Georg Solti

conducting the

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Best Classical Orchestral Recording

and Best Classical Album

BRAHMS: SYMPHONIES 1-4

DSD 20 LPs

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Best Choral Performance

BRAHMS: A GERMAN REQUIEM

DSD 20 LPs

KSISK 44s

And coming very soon from Decca

Sir Georg Solti

conducts

the World Premiere Release of a Digital Opera Recording

Beethoven: Fidelio

with Hildegard Behrens, Hans Sotin, Peter Hofmann, Theo Adam and the Chicago Symphony Chorus & Orchestra

DECCA RECORDS & TAPES

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A sale of Continental furniture and works of art at Sotheby's yesterday made a total of £134,985, with 12 per cent bought in, and 100 lots of rugs and carpets were sold for a total of £29,785, with 6.7 per cent bought in.

A pretty Dutch marquetry corner cupboard of about 1750, inlaid on burr walnut, sold for £8,400 (estimate £5,000 to £8,000). A late eighteenth-century Italian marquetry secretaire, described as being "of unusual form", having doors above and below a fitted secretaire drawer, went to a dealer from Italy at £5,500 (estimate £800 to £1,200).

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The Queen cancels visit to BSC foundry

By Craig Seton

The Queen has cancelled a visit to a British Steel Corporation foundry at Workington, Cumbria, next Friday because of the steel strike.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that she had been advised not to go ahead with the official opening of the new £1m Discrepancy iron foundry development at British Steel's Cleator Works.

It is understood that the decision was not reached because of fears of a demonstration by striking steelmen, but because the plant would be empty and idle. It was taken at the palace and did not involve advice or recommendation by the Government or police.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will now make a scheduled visit to a phosphoric acid works at Whitehaven on Friday morning and spend the afternoon at the Carnegie Arts Centre in Workington.

Our Labour Editor writes: Mr William Siris, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said at Consett, Co Durham: "It is unfortunate the Queen is not going ahead with her visit because I'm sure that our members would give her the right royal welcome to which she is entitled."

"Being loyal citizens, we have tremendous respect for the Queen. I would urge her to think again".

Meanwhile it will carry out a study to see if security needs

No more wheeling meals for diners in the sky

By Alan Hamilton

There was always one restaurant in London where, when the room began to spin after the third large Concorde flight, you could reliably blanch the room rather than the brandy.

Now, after 14 unchallenged years of holding the British altitude record for serving *Dover sole en plement*, the nation's tallest restaurant is to close.

Whatever it may have lacked in gastronomy, the Top Of The Tower made up in gimmickry. Situated 620 feet above Holland Street in the West End, at the top of the Post Office Tower, the revolving restaurant, which cost £1.5m, can be seen from Liverpool and other lesser cities of what used to be the Empire.

It was opened in 1966, a symbol of that halcyon decade for Britain when the quality of the cuisine took second place to the unique experience of boxing the compass on silent rubber wheels, a journey of some 20 minutes, which was occasionally known to be completed between courses.

Since then it has been an immensely popular attraction, and has served a total of 1.6 million revolting dinners.

The last revolving meal will be served on the 34th floor, and the last drinks on the 35th, on June 14.

The Post Office has given notice to Baulins, the restaurant's operators, that its lease will not be renewed when it expires on June 19.

Closure is necessary, the Post

will permit greater public use of the top floors when the elevators are installed, early in 1982.

A new restaurant is not ruled out.

In 1971 the public viewing galleries were closed after a bomb exploded on the 31st floor, and since then the only way to enjoy the finest available panorama of London has been to book a table in the restaurant.

At the time of the bombing, the restaurant closed for six weeks; but apart from that interruption its operators were boasting yesterday that its revolving machinery had never broken down.

The 92 staff, who have served both a set menu, now £15.90 for three courses, and an extensive à la carte selection from a £100-a-head list, will then be forwarded to a commission of inquiry, in case of an automatic recall.

Mr Guido Edwards, aged 63, who has been manager since the opening day, has chosen early retirement instead.

Although it never won a reputation for culinary excellence sufficient to make the star rating in the Guide Michelin, it was a solid commercial success and can be one of the few restaurants in London to boast a five-year turnover.

Seekers after rare culinary experiences will in future be obliged to come down to earth, and to realize that if the roof is spinning, it is time to pay the bill and call a taxi.

Campaign fight rule by Labour left opens

By Michael Harfield

Shadow minister for Political Reform, launching their campaign fight pressure from wing for big changes party constitution. As the automatic resolved Labour MP's, the election leader, and control on compilation of the general manifesto.

The shadow cabinet is launching three proposals Parliamentary Labour, which, if accepted, would be forwarded to the decision taken by the party conference.

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The paper argues that minority parties in would undoubtedly concentrate upon the task of conducting the battle against the policies Conservative Government developing, and Labour's alternative view.

The shadow cabinet We see no reason why where they have initiated a reselection process should be deflected from their activities by my reselection.

Shadow ministers real recommendation files in and the various committees, largely, but they say, that a fuller consideration of the issues involved in the compromise formula thenceforth.

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HOME NEWS**Abortion Bill ends its unhappy saga with criticism of sponsor****Hugh Noyes**
Parliamentary Correspondent

The unhappy saga of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill surely ended yesterday in the Commons as opponents and supporters of the Bill swallowed unprofitably a waltz of bitterness and impatience.

Only 4 is the one day remaining this session for private members' legislation; but the chances of the abortion issue being decided yet in, let alone completing its saga through the Commons, are remote.

The passage of the Bill has been badly mishandled by its porters. It was clear from early stage yesterday that hopes were lost for the committee, already approved by the majority of the House by both front benches, to bring the upper time limit on abortion was lowered to weeks.

The present limit in which abortion can take place is weeks. After a lengthy debate no amendment was led mitigating the effect of the word "substantially" as criteria by which a doctor had to consider the risk to a pregnant woman when

Parliamentary report, page 11

IP will ask about Corby hotel delay**In Our Correspondent**

William Homewood, our MP for Kettering, is to lead an inquiry into why it took so long to trace the source of an unusual disease organism in Strathclyde Hotel, Corby.

The hotel was open for less again yesterday; it was closed last week after a germ in the water system. Ten days ago middle-aged men taken ill with the disease staying there.

I shall be raising the matter in the House of Commons, as to why it took so long to trace the source and why local people were not told of the risks in the first place," Mr Homewood said.

He treated: The water was tested by engineers and last night (the Press Association reports). Mr Ian, the hotel manager, said today: "We can only hope less will not be affected by his problem."

Spence Galbraith, of the Environment's Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre at Mill Hill, north London, said the incubation period for disease was between three to 10 days, but anyone who stayed at the hotel in the 21 days could be suffering the symptoms.

Slight fall in serious crime total

Home Office statistics issued yesterday for serious crime in England and Wales showed that the total of 2,537,000 was slightly lower than that of 1978 and 4 per cent lower than in 1977.

The Home Office statistical department said: "The decreases in the last two years followed a very sharp rise of 15 per cent in 1977 and the average annual rate of increase over the 10 years 1969-1979 was nearly 5 per cent."

The slight decrease between the 1978 total of 2,561,500 and 1979 was in the first quarter.

When seasonal factors were excluded the number of serious offences recorded in each of the last three quarters of 1979 was similar to the number in each quarter of 1978.

While other offences dropped there was a 9 per cent increase in violence against the person, to 95,000 cases. Sexual offences were down from 22,400 to 21,300. Burglary offences dropped from 565,700 to 549,100.

Fraud and forgery cases fell from 122,200 to 119,000 last year; but criminal damage was up from 306,200 cases in 1978 to 320,500 last year.

The number of serious offences cleared up last year totalled 981,000, 41 per cent of the total cases known to police, showing little change from the preceding two years.

Itch in Coniston plan for faster speed record**In Our Correspondent**

A planning committee of Lake District National Park yesterday deferred a decision whether to permit an attempt on the world water speed record on Coniston Water this summer. It declined to consider an application by Mr Tony Fahey, a Manchester contractor, in the absence of a letter from him setting out precise details of what he proposes to involve.

Fahey said later, however, full details should reach committee in time for next week's meeting. He hoped to break the present world record held by Mr Kenneth Bond, an Australian, in late or early June this year, apart from its natural advantages as a large stretch of water, used by other craft and in right conditions capable of entering a mirror smooth surface.

Helicopter saves engineer hurt in tanker blast**In Our Correspondent**

A naval helicopter from Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire flew to the aid of a small tanker 20 miles south of the Isle of Wight yesterday morning after an explosion and fire in the engine room injured the chief engineer and immobilized the ship. The officer was taken to a naval hospital. The chief engineer, Runcorn, 900 tons, a crew of 11 and carrying 1,000 tons of lubricating oil, was in tow by a Dutch tug. The coastguard said: "A day earlier was made about 100m. We are still unaware of extent of the damage in the engine room. We have had no reports of casualties other than the chief engineer. We have also no information about the cause of the explosion and stopped him."

Medieval fair at festival**In Our Correspondent**

A medieval fair, featuring jousting, court jesters, theatre and animals, is part of the Edinburgh Festival. It will be one of the fringe lights on August 26, and a part of the £2m restoration appeal for St Giles' Cathedral. It is proposed that the fair will be held in the Parliament Square. The fringe this year looks bigger and better

Fourth heart transplant performed at Harefield**By John Roper**

Health Services Correspondent
Mr James Burkhill, aged 49, a former steel worker, was given a new heart at Harefield Hospital near Uxbridge yesterday. It was the fourth transplant operation carried out by Mr Magdi Yacoub and his team.

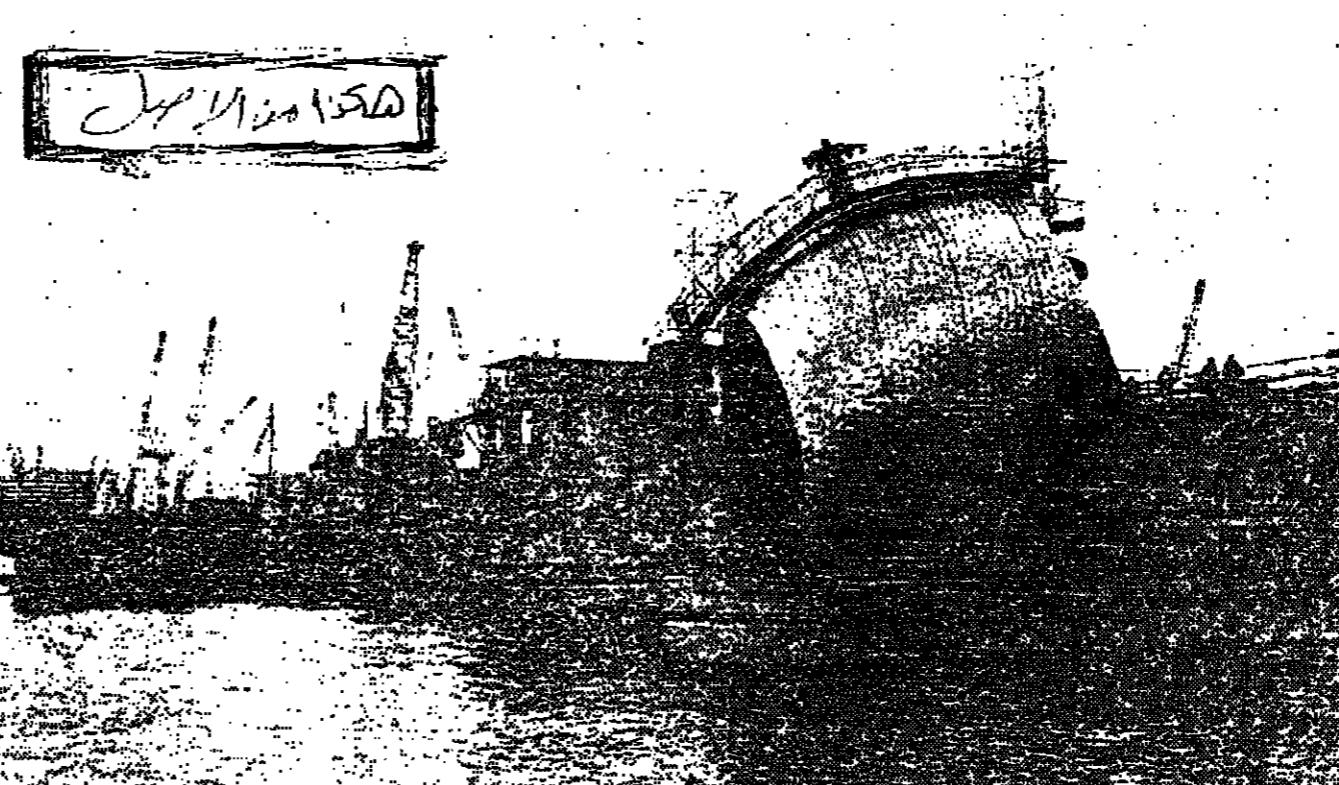
A few hours after the operation ended early yesterday, Mr Burkhill, a widower with three children, from Mold, North Wales, was conscious and drinking tea. His new heart came from a man aged 31 who died of natural causes.

Mr Yacoub's team will continue its programme at Harefield with at least four more transplants this year in spite of the announcement on Tuesday that £100,000 of government money will go to Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, where Mr Terence English has just received a £300,000 donation from a charitable trust.

After advice from the transplantation advisory panel, ministers believe that scarce central fund money should be given to Papworth, which meets most of the criteria for heart transplant operations.

Part of the cost of heart transplants at Harefield is carried by the National Health Service. The extra cost is estimated to be between £6,000 and £7,000 for each transplant.

The latest patient, Mr Burkhill, suffered five severe heart attacks and was forced to give up work in 1975.



Photograph by John Manning

Woman took baby from hospital cot

Yvonne Jamieson, aged 21, who was said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to have wanted a baby so badly that she snatched a newly-born girl from her cot by her mother's bedside, was placed on probation for three years by Judge Abdela QC, on condition that she undergoes medical treatment.

Miss Jamieson admitted stealing the child from her mother, Mrs Margaret Cooper, on November 2 last year. After a national appeal the baby was found at Miss Jamieson's home in Cassland Road, Homerton,

London, 36 hours later and returned to her mother.

Mr Simon Goldstein, for the prosecution, said Miss Jamieson wanted a child of her own but was told by doctors she was physically incapable of having any. Several times she imagined herself to be pregnant. Tests were later found to be misleading.

Miss Jamieson admitted stealing the child from her mother, Mrs Margaret Cooper, on November 2 last year. After a national appeal the baby was found at Miss Jamieson's home in Cassland Road, Homerton,

assumed responsibility, counsel added.

He added: "By artifice or subterfuge, Jamieson started to get larger. It did appear she was pregnant." At hospital, however, she was told she was not pregnant.

When Mrs Cooper gave birth, in North Middlesex Hospital, where Miss Jamieson had visited a friend. When Mrs Cooper woke early on November 2 to feed her baby she was gone.

Miss Jamieson returned to her home with the child and friend she was pregnant and he

was positioned recently on pier 9 of the barrier at Woolwich Reach.

The Greater London Council's flood defence scheme is expected to be completed by the end of 1982.

Road crash damages of £300,000 for US woman

Mrs Judith Struss, of Seattle, United States, who was paralysed from the chest down in a road accident, was awarded £300,000 damages in a settlement in the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday. It was the highest award made for personal injuries in Scotland.

Mrs Struss, who is in her early thirties, was a passenger in a car involved in a collision with another car on the Greenock-Glasgow road on January 17, 1978.

She sued Bearing Services, Ltd, of Helen Street Industrial Estate, Glasgow, for £400,000 as the owners of the other car and as employers of the driver, Mr James Downie, who is now dead.

Mrs Struss, who is a patient at the Rusk Institute at New York University, received a record interim award of £25,000 damages in December, 1978.

Lord Murray was told yesterday that agreement had been reached on the amount.

Appeal by men in corruption case

Three Dundee men who were each jailed for five years on Thursday for corruption were freed yesterday when appeals against their convictions and sentences were lodged.

Lord Cameron in chambers in the High Court in Edinburgh granted their application for interim liberation pending the hearing of their appeals this summer. They were ordered to find security of £150 each.

At 11.47pm, on July 25th 1978, to every childless couple, hope was born.



At Oldham General Hospital.
Lesley Brown gave birth to Louise Joy, the world's first 'test-tube' baby.

With this birth one of the major causes of infertility was removed. And hope born for thousands of women who thought they could never have a child.

Now, exclusively in The Observer, the doctors who made the birth possible tell you their own moving story of this medical breakthrough.

For the next 3 weeks, you can read of the 10 years of heart-breaking trial and error that led up to that joyous moment.

A Matter of Life. Told by scientist Robert Edwards and gynaecologist Patrick Steptoe.

It's a story that will move you, fascinate you, and make you, as it did its authors, thoughtful of its implications for us all.

THE OBSERVER

A Matter of Life. Starting on Sunday. Only in The Observer.

HOME NEWS

Plea by controversial judge to raise age of jurors to 25

By Marcel Berlin
Legal Correspondent

The minimum age for jury service should be raised to 25, Judge Alan King-Hamilton, the controversial judge in the recent anarchists' trial, said last night.

Mr Barry Pain, the Chief Constable of Kent, called on the same television programme for the vetting of juries to take place in every trial.

They made their remarks on London Weekend Television's *London Programme* which dealt with jury vetting.

Judge King-Hamilton said that a young person was insufficiently mature to take on responsibility as a juror, and was "inclined perhaps to think of the defendant and, if he's married, his family, rather than the victim and the public."

"It has been obvious for years that people of that age, particularly students, are inclined to be rebellious and mutinous... if they are on a jury consisting of people who have not got strong views one way or the other; that have not been convicted of criminal offences themselves; that have not behaved unreasonably; that have not been the victims of crime themselves."

"With a crime on the increase we have to do something to stop criminals having their own way. One of the areas where they can be stopped is by having objective, impartial juries."

If that was not possible there would have to be a move to have professional adjudicators.

Bar to cheap air fares 'deplorable'

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

The rejection by the French Government of a British Airways plan for a £20 single air fare between London and Paris was described by Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday as "a deplorable event".

In a statement issued in London he said: "The essence of the European Community lies in the free exchange of goods and people. Nothing could be more important than enabling European citizens to travel between European cities at a price which can afford."

British Airways had planned to introduce the £20 "Channelhopper" fare on the London-Paris route from April 1 for travellers prepared to delay bookings until the day before, or the day of travel, but the French Government let the airline and the British Government know earlier this week that it would not be acceptable as Air France did not intend to operate it.

Channelhopper was to be part of British Airways' drive to bring down the cost of air travel in Europe "traditionally one of the highest fare areas in the world. The airline's policy has the backing of the Government, although the Civil Aviation Authority on Thursday rejected a long list of new routes and cheap fares which had been applied for by Laker Airways and other independent airlines.

Mr Nott's statement said that the level of European fares was too high. British Airways and British Caledonian wanted to bring them down, but they were being blocked by the French Government "on behalf of Air France".

"As Secretary of State responsible for the commercial and aviation interests of the country, I find it increasingly unreasonable that in all those areas where the British economy is highly competitive—banking, insurance, services, aviation and agriculture—we are frequently frustrated by the protectionism of our partners."

"Yet in the areas where we have temporary problems, such as the motor industry, we maintain open markets for their manufactured goods."

Orchestra's disbandment barbaric, conductor says

From Our Correspondent
Glasgow

The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra performed the overture to Wagner's *Meistersinger* last night as the prelude to a public debate in Glasgow on the proposed disbandment of the orchestra.

Its conductor, Karl Anton Riechenbacher, described the proposal as an act of barbarism. "I would hope that the people of Scotland realize that this is not a BBC matter, but a matter for Scotland."

Herr Riechenbacher said that he was in Germany and knew nothing of the proposal until two days after it was announced. He was horrified. In addition to studio work the orchestra gave 40 public concerts a year. "We have received letters

and understood the responsibilities of serving on a jury and that 18 was too young. "I believe that one has to have a certain maturity, a knowledge of the world, be stable, in order to be able to judge objectively and impartially the facts put before them."

He spoke in support of the proposal by the Association of Chief Police Officers that "checks be made on all jurors". It was farcical that when a person went on trial before a jury "there is no means of ensuring that he is going to get an objective and impartial trial."

"It is in the defendant's interest that there should be a jury consisting of people who have not got strong views one way or the other; that have not been convicted of criminal offences themselves; that have not behaved unreasonably; that have not been the victims of crime themselves."

"With a crime on the increase we have to do something to stop criminals having their own way. One of the areas where they can be stopped is by having objective, impartial juries."

If that was not possible there would have to be a move to have professional adjudicators.

Informer on 73 people gets 5 years

From Our Correspondent
London

A man who gave information about 73 people and made statements to the police totalling more than 500 pages, was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for five years.

Judge McKinnon, QC, told Anthony Sapiano, aged 27, that although his help to the police was taken into account, anything less than a substantial sentence would be an affront to society.

The court was told that Mr Sapiano, a market stall holder in the East End of London, was now under threat from other criminals because of what he told the police. He had also been ostracized by his own family.

He was appearing for sentence after pleading guilty to a number of charges, including theft and conspiracy to rob. He asked for 50 other offences to be considered.

Orangemen plan Belfast show of strength today

From Our Correspondent
Belfast

The Orange Order will mount a massive demonstration today that will bring the centre of Belfast to a halt for about four hours in a show of strength aimed deliberately at embarrassing the Government.

The organizers are hoping to attract 50,000 protesters who want tougher security measures against continued assassinations and bombings by the Provisional IRA.

But the march has another purpose. It has been timed to coincide with the approximate expected end of the Ulster constitutional conference as a reminder to the Government not to push the loyalist community too far in proposals that will emerge ultimately for constitutional reform.

The rally has the added point of being held on St Patrick's weekend. All the pomp and pageantry of the Orangemen will be on display in an attempt to produce a bigger response than the traditional July 12 rally. The Order has struck 50,000 memorial badges which are reported to be significant.

Niedermayer body is identified by police

From Christopher Thomas
Berlin

The greatest mystery in 11 years of strife in Northern Ireland was partly solved yesterday when the police formally announced that they had found the body of Mr Thomas Niedermayer, the German industrialist and diplomat kidnapped six years ago.

Since Tuesday pathologists have been studying the decomposed remains of a body found in a shallow grave at an unofficial rubbish tip at Dunmurry, near Belfast.

The man is about one and a half miles from where Mr Niedermayer was kidnapped by two young men just after 11 p.m. on December 27, 1973. He was dragged away from his home still wearing his carpet slippers.

The pathologists identified the body largely by dental comparisons, but last night still had not discovered the cause of death. There is a strong possibility, however, that the funeral can be held next week.

Mrs Ingeborg Niedermayer, who received £100,000 compensation from the Northern Ireland Office, has moved from the family home in West Belfast, but still lives in the province.

The pathologists have an arduous task in assessing how

Mr Niedermayer died. Last

year Mr Peter McMullen,

a former IRA man, said in

America that Mr Niedermayer

died from a heart attack at a

house in Turf Lodge, West Bel-

fast, not long after he was

kidnapped.

Mr Niedermayer, aged 45

when he was kidnapped, was

managing director of the Grun-

ding factory which he helped to

set up in the early 1960s in

Northern Ireland, and honorary

West German consul. A court in

Nuremberg declared him

officially dead at the family's

request four years ago.

No motive for the kidnapping

has been established and no

organization had claimed respon-

sibility. A popular theory is

that the Provisional IRA took

him in revenge for the removal of

IRA prisoners in England to

Ulster jails.

The event resulted in one of

the biggest manhunts in the

province and the German Gov-

ernment sent an investigation

team in January. Within

ten days of the kidnapping the

London office of Grundig re-

ceived a ransom demand for

£250,000; the German Gov-

ernment offered a £3,000 reward

for information; forests, woods,

rivers and lakes were searched.

The atmosphere at his talks

with both the President and the

Prime Minister was very cordial.

He was also able to announce

after his visit to M Barre that

Ireland had decided to accept

the tender of the French firm

Cit-Elecotel for the renovation

of its entire telephone system.

The agreement was described by

the French press today as the

"contract of the century".

Mr Haughey told the press

that he agreed with M Giscard

that Britain's budget

problem could be settled only

if the solution took into con-

sideration "some of the other

troubled areas of EEC policy—

oil, fish, mutton, and agricul-

tural prices". In other words,

he shared the French view

which Britain contests, that all

these issues are linked.

The President also applauded

Ireland's courageous decision

to join the European Monetary

System, and described its agri-

culture as "the sister to our

own".

Mr Haughey also took up the

problem of Northern Ireland

with his French hosts, and in-

sisted that a political solution

must be found, rather than

in the future. His object was to

give the Irish standpoint, not

to enlist French support in

the European movement.

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type of telephone exchange will

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VERSEAS

Veterans for Republican presidential nomination in Illinois publicly challenge each other's views

Mr Anderson steals the show in lively television debate in Chicago

By David Cross

Chicago, March 14
Two weeks ago Mr John Anderson, the liberal member of Congress from Illinois, was asked when he was expected from debate among his Republican rivals for the presidential nomination.

That night, however, Mr Anderson found himself in the able position of not only being part of a similar gathering in Chicago, but also of being

the star of the show. Since his unexpected successes in the Massachusetts and Vermont primaries 10 days ago, the silver-haired evangelist is now perceived by his three remaining opponents as a possible winner of next Tuesday's Republican primary in Illinois.

The debate took place in Carolina and the organization argued that he was not led to take part since he neither entered the state's primary nor campaigned actively there.

At night, however, Mr Anderson found himself in the able position of not only being part of a similar gathering in Chicago, but also of being

proposed a corresponding cut in social security taxes, a point which Mr Crane made it clear that if his colleague from Illinois was quick to challenge, "A half truth is as dangerous and deceptive as a lie", he snapped back.

There were similar criticisms for Mr Anderson's economic recipes from the other participants. Mr Ronald Reagan and Mr Philip Crane, also a member of the House of Representatives from Illinois.

The latter, who has failed

to make any impact on voters during the early primaries, has no chance whatsoever of winning the nomination.

Under pressure from his colleagues and the chairman of the debate, Mr Anderson con-

ceded that he would find it difficult to support either Mr Crane or Mr Reagan if either of them secured the nomination.

In one of the many light moments which characterized the occasion, Mr Reagan assured his colleague from Illinois that he would refuse to endorse him. He accused Mr Anderson of failing to live up to the standards of the Republican Party and suggested he ought to cross the floor to join the Democrats.

Conservative to the right of Mr Reagan, he appears to have stayed in the race only

because he finds the publicity useful for his political ambitions, and because he clearly wants to prevent Mr Anderson from securing the nomination at all costs, however unlikely this may be.

Indeed, in one of the sharpest exchanges during the debate, Mr Crane made it clear that if his colleague from Illinois was the party's choice for the presidency he would refuse to endorse him. He accused Mr Anderson of failing to live up to the standards of the Republican Party and suggested he ought to cross the floor to join the Democrats.

The latter, who has failed

to make any impact on voters during the early primaries, has no chance whatsoever of winning the nomination.

Under pressure from his

World View

by Arrigo Levi

Europe cannot pursue Middle East policy without armed power

Europe's initial reaction to the Afghan shock was one of confusion and passivity. Things have improved lately. But where there was no European foreign policy, there may now be too many policies, all of them threatening to come into collision with America's foreign policy, especially in the Middle East.

Still, one cannot rule out the possibility that in a crisis the President may recall Mr Begin and President Sadat to Camp David. By putting himself and his chances for a second term, at their mercy, he might turn his own weakness into strength. Could they afford to send him to his doom?

It is not yet certain that Europe's intended foray into Middle Eastern affairs will really take place. The three itself of a European initiative may put some useful additional pressure upon Israel. But the fact that Mr Sadat cannot afford to be a less strenuous defendant of Palestinian rights than President Giscard d'Estaing or Lord Carrington will make an agreement more difficult. Israeli spokesmen leave no doubt about their resentment of Europe's intervention. Israel's deep, traumatic mistrust of Europe is surfacing again.

So far, Europe's "almost" initiative is of doubtful effect. Looking to the future, Europe's weaknesses as an honest broker are glaring. Europe has no military power to use in an emergency, so that it cannot offer any credible guarantees to Israel in compensation for territories to be abandoned.

Also, Europe's apparent readiness to make important concessions to anti-Israel and anti-Egyptian Arabs, without asking in exchange, as far as we know, for a long overdue recognition of Israel by the PLO (as well as for some recognition of Egypt's great contribution to the cause), renders Palestine nil its potential influence. Europe projects an image of weakness. But the Arab best friend remains somebody who's a friend and supporter of Israel, can influence its actions, America is still the obvious choice, on both accounts.

In order to act for peace in the world, power is needed; including military power. Europe has none, while individual European states seem to be of some relevance to world affairs only if compared to that political dwarf, Japan. Europe's actions show that it now recognizes the need for power. It even has some useful ideas on how to use it: Herr Schmidt, the German Chancellor, has lately presented a respectable synthesis of a European foreign policy.

Europeans do not lack the means to produce power: but are they ready to make the necessary sacrifices? Or do they still prefer to trust their luck, and America?

Mr Ford still keeps the nation guessing

By Michael Leepman

New York, March 14
Mr Gerald Ford, the former president, is keeping the nation guessing about whether he will re-enter the contest for the Republican Party's nomination for his old job.

After dropping several hints yesterday that he probably

did not run, he made a speech here last night which indicated that he thought he'd be the candidate.

"In I had a record my opponent could attack and make all kinds of promises," he said.

"1980 the yardstick will be record against his record."

It was a reference to his

as by President Carter, in which he attacked viciously in the week. Yesterday two men met at the White

House, a meeting which was

but naturally frosty.

New York, last night, Mr

said that if he did run, it'd be "more as a sense of doing anything else". He

wanted to rescue the

from the "serious

omic disaster" which was

taking as a result of Mr

's policies, and pointed

that the opposition polls indicated that he could win

over while Mr Ronald

the front-runner for

nomination, could not

his speech at a dinner

sponsored by a financial magazine, Mr Ford did not mention Mr Reagan by name but criticized his philosophy. He said it was an illusion that you could solve the problems of the modern world by nostalgically trying to recreate a departed golden era of the kind to which Mr Reagan constantly harks back.

It is probable that Mr Ford has not yet decided whether he will enter the contest, but he has promised to announce a firm decision next week, after the Illinois primary. At a Washington breakfast yesterday he spoke with disappointment of people who had encouraged him to be a candidate but who were being wary of offering their support.

Some think that Mr Reagan has so long a lead that it would be impossible to stop him in the remaining primaries. Liberals in the party who oppose Mr Reagan are for the first time beginning to view Mr John Anderson as the best alternative.

The New York Times reported today that Mr John Connally, who withdrew as a candidate last week, has been acting as a spoiler for Mr Ford. He apparently dissuaded the Republican governors of Texas and Ohio from supporting the former president, although both had been expected to do so.



Nurses of the Sunrise Hospital being informed about the suspension of their "gambling" colleagues.

Macabre story of Las Vegas death gamble

From Ivor Davis

Los Angeles, March 14

Las Vegas is a city whose lifeblood is gambling. The operators of its casinos and betting shops have always prided themselves on being able to find someone willing to take a wager on just about anything.

But today the district attorney is investigating what police believe may be the sickest and most gruesome game of chance imaginable.

The nurse was nicknamed "Death's Angel" according to the Las Vegas Review Journal,

staff of the Sunrise Hospital's intensive care unit ran regular lotteries to see who could come closest to pinpointing the time of death of critically ill patients.

Here the story takes its most horrifying and bizarre turn. Several employees have been suspended after reports that a nurse at the hospital might have turned off the life-supporting equipment of about six dangerously ill patients.

The nurse was nicknamed "Death's Angel" according to the Las Vegas Review Journal,

executive director of the 666-bed hospital with a staff of 2,000, near the city's glittering hotel and casino strip, said:

"This probably makes me about as sick as anything I can think of."

The story came to light when a nurse allegedly overheard staff members placing wagers and logging guesses about what time a particular patient would expire.

The deaths of at least six patients are reported to be under police scrutiny. In one case police believe that a patient's oxygen supply had been tampered with. In others, machines used to keep patients alive in the 24-hour care unit were switched off, the newspaper reported.

The Review-Journal reported that the bets were made among members of a small, night shift group working in the intensive care unit. Mr Robert Miller, the Las Vegas district attorney, confirmed that an investigation was under way but refused to give further details.

\$400m sale of shares for museum

From Our Correspondent

Jerusalem, March 14

Frustrated and angered by the sudden upsurge of official European support for the Palestinian cause, the Israeli coalition cabinet will meet on Sunday to discuss a special report drawn up by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the new Foreign Minister, on ways in which it can be countered.

Since Mr Shamir took up his post on Tuesday the bulk of his time has been devoted to surveying the problem. No details about prospective action have yet been released, but it is likely that Israel will soon launch an extensive information campaign designed to convince European leaders that the call for Palestinian self-determination contradicts the Camp David agreement.

According to Government sources, Israeli diplomats inside the EEC have already been instructed to convey forcefully to their host governments the view that the new trend of European policy is encouraging the Palestinians to aspire to something which they cannot practically hope to achieve.

In a brief radio interview today Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, vigorously denied a suggestion that the growing European backing for the Palestinians may have arisen as a reaction to the Israeli Government's hardline policies. He claimed that it was a development which had started years ago.

A spokesman for the museum said: "Even if we received the money tomorrow we have no specific plans about what to do with it".

There is uncertainty about how soon the funds will be turned over to the museum trustees. But an official of the estate's co-executor said it was likely that proceeds of the sale might be distributed within one year.

Mr Getty established the museum at his Malibu ranch home in 1953, then built a Pompeian villa in 1974 to house his collection. He never saw the finished museum before he died in 1976. Since then the Getty estate and will has been tangled up in complex probate proceedings.

The Getty estate stock holdings are valued at more than \$1,200m. The estate also includes some cash and property.

Israeli drive against backing for PLO

From Christopher Walker

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Czech police 'polite' to student

From Angus Cargill

Kuala Lumpur, March 14

According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Moshe Sasson, Israel's special ambassador for European affairs, emphasized that "The Government of Austria, in ignoring the fate of the Jewish people in Europe in the Second World War, and in siding with an organization which wishes to destroy Israel has taken on itself a severe moral and political responsibility".

In a separate move, Mr Shimon Peres, leader of the Opposition Labour Alignment, sent his own protest telegram to Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor.

In advance of any official campaign in Europe, it was disclosed to right that activists from Mr Begin's Herut Party have already drawn up an action plan of their own. This is reported to include demonstrations in a number of European countries and the sending of individual letters to all British MPs.

Because of the present stalemate in the tripartite talks on Palestinian autonomy, many Israeli politicians fear that a new European initiative on the Middle East will be launched soon after May 26, the deadline set at Camp David for the completion of the negotiations.

Venice protest: Mr Yissachar Ben-Yaacov, the Israeli Ambassador to Austria, has delivered a sharp protest to the Austrian Foreign Ministry concerning Austria's recognition of the PLO (Sue Masterman writes from Vienna). "We have lodged very strong protest indeed," he said later. "We expect an answer within the next few days."

Relations between Austria and Israel have never recovered from the shock they received when Dr Kreisky snubbed Mrs Golda Meir's Government and allowed Palestinian terrorists to leave Austria after they had hijacked a train carrying Soviet Jewish emigrants at the Austrian border. Dr Kreisky met the terrorist's demands to close down the main transit camp in Vienna for Soviet Jewish emigrants.

He went into the flat and was there for about 10 minutes before 10 policemen burst in.

"They took me to the police station and questioned me. They read a few letters from my grandfather and asked me if my friends were."

Mr Cargill said the policemen took him back to the flat where he was staying to collect his things and drove him to the Bavarian border where he was left.

Officials said that the continued support for the underground Malayan Communist Party and the position of the nearly 250,000 Chinese in Malaysia would come up in the discussions as well as the Kampuchean question and the increasing super power involvement in the region.

Murderer hanged after reprieve attempt fails

From Our Correspondent

Kuala Lumpur, March 14

An eleventh hour move to obtain a reprieve for a man convicted of murdering the Perak Chief of Police four years ago, has failed and he was hanged here along with his accomplice.

Lim Choon Wong, aged 28, was facing another charge of murdering the Malaysian Inspector General of Police a year earlier. On being told yesterday of the execution date Mr Kirpal Singh, his lawyer, applied for a stay of execution pending the disposal of that charge.

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The opening shot in this political, rather than linguistic, discussion was fired by Mr

Malaysia gives Mr Huang a wary welcome

From Our Correspondent

Kuala Lumpur, March 14

The annual seal hunt began today off the northern Newfoundland coast, and for a change there was no sign of protesters.

But the Greenpeace Foundation, the main protest group, claims that its members had succeeded in spraying 150 seals with green dye, making the seals worthless.

St. Canadian and three Norwegian crews moved at dawn into ice floes carrying the main seal herd down from the north. In the next two to three weeks, they will be at work harvesting baby harp seals.

Saturday Review

The Last Days

by Sean Day-Lewis

Cecil Day-Lewis, lionized young poet of the 1930s and 1940s, was appointed Poet Laureate in succession to John Masefield at the beginning of 1968. His health was already frail and in early 1971 it was discovered he had terminal cancer of the pancreas. His second wife, the actress Jill Balcon, was told he had "a possible year" to live and advised that he should continue to live in hope. He was not told what was wrong with him.

Three months later he was still on his feet endeavouring to lead his normal life.

On July 18 Cecil and Jill gave what was destined to be the last of the hundreds of public recitals which they had offered together over twenty-one years. It was organized by Douglas' Cleverdon at the Shakespeare Institute as part of his eighteenth Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival. It included a wide selection from Cecil's more recent work: "The Disabused", requiring much power from the reader; a Elegy, for a Woman "Unknown"; "A Picture by Renoir", four of the Irish poems from *The Whispering Roots*, and "The Expulsion", still unpublished. At the end Cecil looked so ill that Colette Clark, daughter of Sir Kenneth, suggested to Stuart Hampshire, warden of Wadham, that he should be given a lift to the station. Cecil was consequently conveyed to his room in a funeral-like choice about which he looked bravely.

With his family, Cecil embarked on his final visit to his native land on Saturday, August 7. They took the Mercedes and crossed the Irish Sea, via Holyhead and Dún Laoghaire. The Old Head Hotel was once more safely reached. Cecil enjoyed the place as he always had done, though his walks were much restricted and his swimming and diving days were over. His worst moment was when he was sitting in the front of his stationary and safely parked car, and it was run into by an ill-controlled horse and cart.

The beautiful but accident-prone Mercedes had to be taken into Castlebar for a new windscreen and other repairs.

From Old Head, Cecil wrote to Billie Curran. Their love affair during his Devon period, 1938-50, is reflected in several poems and his last detective novel, Nicholas Blake's *The Private Wound*.

I hope my lunch invitation has not gone astray, and that I didn't annoy you by my crazy suggestion that you might care to stay in Greenwich. At any rate do come to London—I don't know how long I have to live and it would be nice to see you before I am trundled off to the tomb. . . . We'll go to a nice dark restaurant near Chatto and Windus, where nobody will notice a "fat old woman" or a man who resembles a human skeleton.

The journey back to England began on August 30. Jill driving through Enniscorthy, co. Wexford, a farewell to the land of milk and honey" of Cecil's blissful childhood summers, before catching the boat at Rosslare.

In London, Cecil continued to go to his office every other week, showing the determination of a man who still feared that if he behaved as though nothing was wrong, his life might tire of the struggle against him and go away. Writing to Charles Cauley about the 1971 meeting of the Queen's Gold Medal committee, he did not even mention his health.

On October 26 he dined with The Club and next evening Jill drove him in her new Renault to give a recital at Sooke Pages in Buckinghamshire, the scene of Thomas Gray's elegy "Written in a Library Chamber-Yard". It was a bad night. The side effects of his medicines and diseases were making it more difficult for him to control either his temper or his bowels, though he still contrived to keep such problems from everybody but Jill.

On the thirty-first Stephen and Natasha Spender brought W. H. Auden to lunch at 6 Crooms Hill. Cecil noted that Wystan now had a very limited stock of jokes and conversational gambits, which he repeated over and over again, though the pedagogic finger was jabbed as vigorously as

ever. Wystan guessed at a first glance that Cecil had cancer and that this would probably be the last time he would ever see his old friend and colleague.

On November 4 the Queen's Gold Medal committee met as planned at L'Epicure, and afterwards in the Chatty boardroom. Cecil had some difficulty in gaining the prize, for Stephen Spender, but after a resounding action by Philip Larkin it was eventually decided to go ahead with the Spender recommendation, on the strength of his latest book *The Generous Days* "and, to a considerable extent, in recognition of his past work".

The news that Cecil had cancer now spread; and some generous gestures resulted.

The poet Paul Dehn, who himself died of cancer five years later, but who was then being well-rewarded as a cinema screenplay writer, sent a cheque for £300 "in aid of hospice". With Jim Rose, then running the Westminster Press, Elizabeth Jane Howard organized a fund to which Cecil's friends contributed £1,000 to give him extra comforts during his last months.

Kenneth Clark brought a first edition of Coleridge, pretending that he was having to dispose of his library at Saltwood Castle before moving into the lodge.

His children by his second marriage also did him well, until December. Tamasi was offered a place at King's College, Cambridge, one of the first group of girl undergraduates to join that institution. Daniel, already showing signs of having inherited the acting talent of his parents, was an excellent Florizel in the Bedales production of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. Cecil, who had taken the same part in that Sherborne production 48 years before when he fell in love with his Perdita, watched with approval. On the night of the performance he was black and blue with bruises sustained when he had lost his footing and fallen down some stairs.

It was surprising that he did not have more such falls, for he had become a six foot tall bundle of skin and bones, and it was will-power that kept him going about his business as 1971 turned to 1972. I remember giving him lunch, for a change, at a restaurant in St Martin's Lane, near his office, just before Christmas. It was an expensive establishment but as always at that season, uncomfortably full. Cecil's chair, wherever he moved it, had a fatal attraction for the disengaged waiters and he was repeatedly bumped. He remained patient and uncomplaining, relishing his mineral water as though it was best claret. He was decidedly pleased at the news that the second son, Nicholas, had found the courage to break free from the unsatisfactory marriage that he had begun with such ceremony at the nearby St. Martin-in-the-Fields church 14 years before.

Cecil had recorded a 25-minute broadcast of his own poetry transmitted by Radio 3 on New Year's Day. This heralded a three-month period during which he did as much broadcasting as at any time of his life.

By far his biggest undertaking was a series of six poetry programmes for BBC Television, transmitted after dusk, a "Lasting Joy". This had been suggested by Norman Swallow, a Greenwich friend and neighbour, then head of arts features. The majority channel had never been used for the uncompromising dissemination of poetry. "We three had mad many animated, but often inconclusive discussions as to how one could present poetry on television, and even if one could do so at all," Jill wrote in her foreword to the Allen and Unwin anthology made from the series. Cecil was nevertheless drawn to the idea of using the latest means of communication to put over the older, more "difficult" and apparently Swallow knew that Cecil was very ill but not knowing he was dying of cancer, had taken the "enormous risk" of commissioning the series.

But it was obvious that Cecil was no longer well enough to be transported to the BBC Television Centre in West London. Swallow decided that nothing could keep him warm and his feet had become so painful that walking was a misery. Yet on the day he returned to his Chatty office and went on afterwards to the House of Lords for a dinner of the Byron Society, Presided over by Lord Boothby, this marked the 160th anniversary of Byron's maiden speech to the House: Cecil read extracts from the speech.

I've tried to ring you twice but you're evidently enjoying a well-earned holiday. I hope to attend on January 24, and will propose Angus (Wilson)—as a quid pro quo—for supporting Leslie (Hart-



Illustration by Lars Hokanson

ley), whom I don't really think up to it. David Cecil certainly. My health being so up and down, if I'm baulked at the last moment, then I'll ring you, so can you take this scrawl as assenting to all those parties.

In the event Cecil did get to the RSL Council meeting on the twenty-fourth, proposing Angus Wilson for a Companion of Literature after Lord Birkenhead put up Lord David Cecil and Robert Speaight spoke for L. P. Hartley. Cecil was clearly very ill and had to be placed at a corner of the table next to the electric fire so that he could keep warm. That he attended at all was proof of his extreme devotion to the Society of which he had been a Fellow for nearly 30 years.

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Recording began on January 16 with Swallow himself as director. Cecil managed his introductions and his readings, but was so exhausted when the first programme was completed that morning that he had to go and lie down. The same afternoon he got up and recorded the final programme of the sequence, this time with Sir John Gielgud joining him and Jill as readers, finding some reserve of strength that was not really there. He clearly spoke from the heart in introducing Gielgud's reading of Dylan Thomas's "Do not go gentle into that good night".

The other four programmes were recorded at irregular intervals during the next month. Cecil and Jill joined all the remaining except on February 20 when the actor Marius Goring joined them in "Satire and Hatred". Cecil more and more frequently collapsed with exhaustion between filming sessions but his determination, and the technical skill and patience of the film crew ensured that the series was satisfactorily completed.

On January 26 he and Jill gave a dinner party at 6 Crooms Hill, for Paul Dehn and his friend the composer James Bernard, and for Lennox and Freda Berkeley. Cecil was given much pleasure by the music made that night, as he was two nights later at the Royal Festival Hall, where Sir Arthur Bliss had arranged that he should have the interval solo in "A Living Joy". This had been suggested by Norman Swallow, a Greenwich friend and neighbour, then head of arts features. The majority channel had never been used for the uncompromising dissemination of poetry. "We three had mad many animated, but often inconclusive discussions as to how one could present poetry on television, and even if one could do so at all," Jill wrote in her foreword to the Allen and Unwin anthology made from the series. Cecil was nevertheless drawn to the idea of using the latest means of communication to put over the older, more "difficult" and apparently Swallow knew that Cecil was very ill but not knowing he was dying of cancer, had taken the "enormous risk" of commissioning the series.

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ley), whom I don't really think up to it. David Cecil certainly. My health being so up and down, if I'm baulked at the last moment, then I'll ring you, so can you take this scrawl as assenting to all those parties.

At the end of the series, members of the British arts Establishment who signed a letter to *The Times* calling for an end of detention without trial in Northern Ireland; but there were to be no more attempts at public appearances.

His second son by his first marriage, Nicholas, came from South Africa to see him in March, something of a stranger from another world. "On my last visit to England I think we had completely lost touch," Nick recalled. "He listened to me politely, but I don't think I got through to him at all. And when I finally left, I said goodbye to him in his chair. He didn't move. Ian and Trekkie Parsons, and was already talking to them again, without a glance in my direction, before he reached the door of his study."

I had come to collect Nick and drive him to London Airport. I witnessed this scene and hoped very much he had noticed Cecil's apparent indifference. It was doubtless part of Cecil's scheme for conserving his energy and avoiding distressing scenes, for not wasting what little time he had on futile regrets. His special friends, among whom Ian and Tamasi and Daniel, and Jill, the Amis home above High Barnet on the northern outskirts of London. All his life he was a roamer man."

Another visitor that month was Elizabeth Jane Howard, now Mrs Kingsley Amis. She could feel the almost unbearable atmosphere of jagged tension which then permeated what had become a rather dark house. The strain on Jill would have been huge even if she had been a physically powerful nurse, without emotional involvement. As it was, she had to watch the person she loved more than all his friends decline day by day. She had to maintain the pretence that he still had hopes for a better future, and she had to cope with the physical business of dealing with a patient who could do less and less for himself. Jill had not slept for months. At times they both became exasperated, as much as anything, with their own lack of physical strength. When Tamasi or Daniel were about life for them was bleak in the extreme. I can remember leaving the house at

this time with the feeling of having been caught in a vice. One so powerfully did the troubled atmosphere press down on the visitor. Thanks to good fortune and her own generosity Jane was able to help.

Jill had had a part in an Associated Television drama series, *The Strauss Family*, which meant a week of recording at Elstree studio in Hertfordshire. Jane and Kingsley Amis were living in a large eighteenth-century house nearby. Hadley Common, and Jill probably both a ground-floor room, and the nurse a single room. Jill, in Jane's invalid mother, Cecilia Parsons, had already talked to her about the idea of going into a hospital while Jill was filming happily agreed to the idea of a "holiday" in the Amis study.

It had been a week since Jill had telephoned me on January 18 saying that Cecil was much weaker, and the nurse had said it was time to start a funeral arrangement. Two days later he received a call from his agent and partner A. D. Peters, who had been staying with him in his study. Jill had been staying with him for weeks, and was now less than a mile away, in a room of her own, separated by a wall of magnolia uttering its requiems, a bloom of Magnolia uttering its requiems, a climate of acceptance. Very well.

I accept my weakness with my friends' Good natures sweetening every day my sick room.

At this time he was also signing copies of his new birthday hymn for Shakespeare; and writing the occasional postcard, one of them to the authorist James Gibson, commanding him on his work with *Let the Poet Choose* (Harrap, 1973), in which each of the 44 contributing poets was allowed to choose two of his own poems. May I suggest as my poem, "Two Poems", the last of *O Dreams* ("O Desirous of Words Over All, 1943"), and

On Not Saying Everything ("The Room, 1965"). Cecil had written to him: "The sooner because, though I wrote it 30 years ago, it still stands up and says something I feel to be truthful about the human condition: 'On Not Saying Everything' because I believe so strongly in the doctrine of limitations, it speaks for—that is, regarding a tree, a poem, a human relationship, lives and thrives by the limits imposed on it."

I am left alone in the room; he murmers, "I am left alone in the room; he is off now. He is more or less alone when I enter the room. Ursula Vaughan Williams is here helping as I am weekend off. I am to help in turning him a bed, to detach myself from skeletal legs and hips, cannot bear part of Cecil. His turning he faces his chest as if he has himself to die like an animal.

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A steady stream of visitors made the journey to Hadley Common: Norah Somalwod, his Chatty friend and colleague for so many years; writers such as Philip Larkin and V. S. Pritchett; Peggy Ashcroft, the great actress with whom he had performed in so many recitals; the lawyer Jeremy Hutchinson ("very funny without being too noisy") and the academic Noel Annan; and

others with less resolute names, though equally dear. Cecilia Parsons was grieved and gave him a new lease of life, before departure and exhaustion. He enjoyed his sixty-eighth day on the tennis court, opening each of the 12 piped on his bed with a smile gallantly feigning simply true.

He must have drawn sions from his physical and increasingly severe pain but he did not complain. Maybe he did not discuss the matter, "we would be altogether too embarrassed for them both, and could not discuss it will would be wrong to do anybody else.

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Continued on opposite

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am Gymnasts: The vault (r).
9.20 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Includes a swap from Denmark (live), and interviews with Magnus Magnusson, David Stoll (formerly Hutch), and fashion editor Becky Bain.

12.30 pm Grandstand: The line-up is: 12.35 pm Football: 10pm, football (Football Watcher); National Championships Final; 1.25, 1.30, 2.20 Racing from Chepstow; 1.49 and 2.10 Squash (Avis British Open Championship, Final); 2.50 International Rugby Union: Scotland v England and at 4.30 Ireland v Wales; 4.40 Final score.

5.10 The Pink Panther Show: three cartoons.

5.30 News: with Richard Whitemore.

5.55 Wonder Woman: Lynda Carter poses as a singer to crack a record-breaking.

5.55 Jim'll Fix It: An 18-year-old girl dances the charleston on top of a taxi, that leads to Jimmy Savile's.

7.05 All Creatures Great and Small: Who is poisoning the dogs? Siegfried investigates.

7.10 Match of the Day: Highlights from two of today's Football League games.

10.30 Michael Parkinson meets Ken Dodd: Last in the present series.

11.30 Phil Silvers as Sergeant Bulko: The Army confidence trickster in another comedy.

11.35 Weather.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 8.50 am

International Rugby Union: Ireland v Wales; 9.00 pm Saturday Evening News.

9.15 Sports: 9.15 pm Saturday Evening News.

9.30 Match of the Day: Highlights from two of today's Football League games.

10.30 Michael Parkinson meets Ken Dodd: Last in the present series.

11.30 Phil Silvers as Sergeant Bulko: The Army confidence trickster in another comedy.

11.35 Weather.

BBC 2

7.40 am Open University, Unit 1.55 Closed down at 1.55.

7.55 News: Boom Town.

(1940) Adventures about the Texan oilfields, with Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy as wildcatters and Claudette Colbert and Heddy Lamarr as their women. Filmed in the best 1940s MGM style.

8.45 Chippendales: Comedy and music with Justin Case and Peter Wear and their singing guest Anita Dobson.

4.45 Horizon: Encounter with Jupiter. Extraordinary documentary about what the Voyager spacecraft photographed when they looked at Jupiter and its four moons (r).

5.45 Mr Smith's Rock Garden:

Geoffrey Smith shows how to make one (r).

6.10 Open Door: Ryedale Community Nursery in set up in London to help the problems of working parents with children (repeated next Wednesday).

6.40 Free to Choose: Another of Professor Milton Friedman's personal statements on world economics. Tonight he asks: Who protects the consumer? Peter Jay chairs a studio discussion with Roy Hattersley, Peter Medawar (consumer watchdog) and Saxon Tate, businessman.

6.45 Horizon: Encounter with Jupiter. Extraordinary documentary about what the Voyager spacecraft photographed when they looked at Jupiter and its four moons (r).

7.00 News and sport.

8.00 Bruckner's Seventh Symphony: Second showing of this

fine performance by the Chicago Symphony under Solti: from the 1978 Proms (see Personal Choice).

9.30 Playhouse: In Hiding. Starring in a derelict house where a 12-year-old boy (Roger Abbott) and his man (Dominik Elliott) seem to exchange roles.

10.45 1980 World Figure Skating Championships: Highlights of the big show from Dortmund, including the Ladies' Championship.

11.25 News and weather.

11.30 The White Heat: (1949) One of the best gangster movies ever made, with James Cagney as a psychopathic gunman whose favorite girl is his mother. The top-of-the-world climax is unforgettable. Ends at 1.35 (see Personal Choice).

VHF

6.55 am Regional news, weather.

7.05 Open University: Music International Forum: International Biology Project: Magnetic Circuits: Desalinisation.

10.30 Inside Parliament.

11.20-12.00 Open University: Curriculum Design and Develop-

ment.

London Weekend

7.00 am Sesame Street: With the Muppets; 9.40 The Beachcombers: Nick and the belly-dancer (r); 10.05 Superman: A baby elephant is stolen; 10.30 Tiswas: frantic movie for children.

12.30 pm World of Sport: The line-up is: 12.35 On the ball (from Wembley Stadium); 1.00 Swimming (Soviet Union v East Germany, from Leningrad); 1.15 News; 1.20 The ITV Seven: racing from the Grand National; 1.30, 2.00 and 3.00, and from Newcastle; 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45; 3.10 Darts (Elkhardt Nations Cup); 3.50 Half-time results: 4.00 Wrestling (from Dibbedy); 4.50 Results Services.

5.00 News.

5.15 Dick Turpin: Another adventure with Richard O'Sullivan as the highwayman.

5.45 Mind Your Language: Lan-

FILMS ON TV

The weekend films are for the star-spotters. This afternoon (BBC 2, 2.25) Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, Claudette Colbert and Heddy Lamarr can be seen in Boom Town.

7.30 Two men in the oil boom of 1918 and their respective fall and rise in the decades that follow — hymn to the ideal of American enterprise characteristic of its period (1940). Tonight there is Cagney to the last of the BBC's series of Warner gangster movies.

8.00 News: 8.30 The Big Parade.

1949 by Raoul Walsh (who had also directed Cagney in The Roaring Twenties) it moved into a new, realistic style of violence and psychopathy in its portrait of a ruthless gunman stuck with a mother fixation. Tomorrow (BBC 1,

5.55) in Thank Your Lucky Stars you can see a whole parade of Warner stars of 1943—including Bogart, Flynn, Garfield, Bergman and Ann Sheridan—being put through their paces. The feisty and sentimental tunes are likely to be Eddie Cantor and a story about putting on a benefit show; but the excuse hardly matters.

Cromwell (tomorrow, BBC 1, 7.15) is made of stern—or you might say, stoic—stuff, an opinion and painless history of the Civil War. Richard Harris is diligent as Cromwell, but Alec Guinness's Charles I steals the show.

Welcome Home, Johnny Bristol (Monday, BBC 1, 9.25) is a 1972 made-for-TV film that has never been shown here, and has an in-

triguing plot about a Vietnam casualty who finds his well-rehearsed Vermont hometown no longer exists. Another movie tomorrow (Wednesday, BBC 1, 9.30) is Something for the Weekend, starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

10.45 Letter from America: Special: Carroll.

11.00 The Big Parade: Western.

11.30 News: 12.00 Weather and weather.

12.30 Close: Anna Ford reads Laurence Binyon's poem The Burning of the Leaves.

by David Robinson

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.00 am Ragtime: Puppet show (r).

9.15 New Zealand: Naya Jevan: For viewers. News, music, discussions.

9.55 When I'm Calling You: John Cleese in a light-hearted film about incoming telephone calls in offices (r).

10.10 The Skill of Lip-Reading: Problems at the doctor's surgery (r); 10.20 Let's Get: Brian Rix programme for the mentally handicapped (r); 10.35 It Figures: Jimmy Young on how to be more confident about numbers (r); 11.15 News: 12.00 Weather and weather.

12.30 Antiques Roadshow: The people of Llandrindod Wells bring out their treasures for Arthur Negus and other experts to value.

1.00 Songs of Praise: From Grantham. With Gerry Montague.

1.15 News: 1.30 Weather and weather.

1.55 Film: Thank Your Lucky Stars: 1943. Melodic reverie featuring many of the old Warner stars, from Errol Flynn (singing a song) to Bette Davis (doing the same). A nostalgic curiosity now, but it has its moments.

4.00 Bugs Bunny's Mother's Day Special: Cartoon.

4.30 The Big Parade: Western.

5.00 News: 5.30 The Big Parade.

5.30 Letter from America: Special: Carroll.

6.00 News: 6.30 The Big Parade.

6.30 News: 6.45 The Big Parade.

7.00 News: 7.15 News: 7.30 Weather and weather.

7.30 Call My Staff: The pretending game played by two tennis coaches by Arthur Marshall, Miriam Stoppard, Anton Rodgers, Frank Muir, Gayle Hunnicut and Simon Jenkins. With Robert Robinson as MC.

7.45 The World of Art: Kopje.

8.45 Where There's a Kopje: A Rock for All Seasons. Kopje are the huge boulders that sit like rocky islands in the grasslands of Africa's Serengeti territory. This film is about the wild life that is around them.

9.00 News: 9.15 News: 9.30 Weather and weather.

10.30 News: 11.40 Ten Bennett Sings: The American entertainer sings songs from films. Programme ends at 12.15 am.

12.30 Close: Anna Ford reads Laurence Binyon's poem The Burning of the Leaves.

by Claire Rayner

TELEVISION

BBC 2

7.40 am Open University, begin-

ning with Guernsey: outside in-

fluences, and ending with (at 1.30 pm) Drugs: the industry and the regulators. Close down at 1.55.

8.45 Rugby Special: All the big games from yesterday's two big games: Ireland versus Wales at Dublin, and Scotland versus Eng-

land at Murrayfield.

8.10 News Review: presented by

Richard Whitemore, with sub-titles

8.40 The Money Programme: The

North Sea oil revenues—and what

the Government could do about

name names... so much mumbled dialogue... so many

men coming and going. To make sense last week's

installment of Law and Order demanded concentration of

such high order. Fortunately, the name of Jack Lynn

abiding to the turbulent surface, and in tonight's episode,

1.20, Lynn, break-in specialist, is the word made flesh.

see him planning the supermarket robbery about which we

about heard last Sunday night.

to expect, if you tune into Where There's Brass (ITV, 8.45)

serialisation of The History of Mr Polly (BBC 1, 6.05)

and sounds as authentically Welsh as the same producer's

Letts) The Old Curiosity Shop looked and sounded

totally Dickensian. Andrew Sachs's Mr Polly has caught,

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A panel, *Les Chiens Savants*, by C. V. Eycken from a collection of sporting and animal pictures to be sold in Paris on March 21.

Good Food Fraternal partnerships

Restaurateurs and hoteliers are generally coupled together, though they practise arts that carry different risks and opportunities. Comparatively few British caterers resemble John Tovey of Miller Howe, Windermere, in moving easily between the roles of *chef-patron* and bed-and-board impresario. Couples, of whatever complexion, contrive this transition from restaurant to hotel more easily, especially when the scale of the operation is too small to necessitate the employment of a separate chef, for usually one partner has the temperament to concentrate on customers and business while the other is engrossed in the technique of cooking. There are several hotels like this on the distinction list of the 1980 Good Food Guide, published last week.

However, the unusually high turnover this year in the distinctions awarded by the Good Food Guide's circle of amateur and professional food and wine critics probably does the catering trade much more good than harm, provided the newcomers are mentally and morally equipped to withstand the strong light that bears upon them.

In the normal course of events, most of the new restaurants and hotel front-runners would have been described in this column over the past 12 months, but the Times's sabbatical made this impossible, so here are examples.

Jean-Pierre Champéau's Jean-Pierre at Cauldon Lowe has the unusual distinction of being in Staffordshire, historically one of the least favoured counties for eating out, and in the context of this article, it is worth noting that M Champéau is one half of a fraternal pair-

nership that latterly ran a hotel as well as a restaurant (the Normandie at Birtle). It is a tribute to that house's long pre-eminence in its district that so many customers have pursued M Champéau all the way from the far side of Manchester, to taste his jambon cru, his robust sauces for snails, hare, and wild duck, and his unusual Norman *fermier* dishes such as *sot-l'y laisse au cidre* made of nuggets of raw lamb meat found low down on the backs of chickens, where most restaurateurs (and housewives) overlook them.

Sometimes, it seems, flavours are rather too forceful here even for francophile tastes: "The garlicky salad dressing made the hair curl, and slices of raw onion do little for the delicate flavour of avocado. Poussin was drenched in calvados, and it is also wise to keep the local Ashbourne water hands on the table in case they flame the crêpes too zealously." However, others may find these to be faults on the right side, and besides, for whatever reason, "the white stone house with chequered tablecloths has more geniality and less tobacco smoke than I remember at Birtle."

Jean-Pierre, the Frenchman, is more remarkable for his spirit than for his wine cellar. The next two places both in the West Midlands and both run by English couples, are remarkable for French wine as well as food. *At Food for Thought* in Cheltenham Christopher Wicks and Joanna Jane Mahon are evidently generalists rather than specialists by temperament, for they have lately exchanged roles in the restaurant; they have spent five years building up; for the past 12 months Christopher has done the cooking, "with repudiation at first". However, it would be unfair to attribute this year's crowning success solely to the change, for the partnership's strength is all-round good value. The dining-room is very small—only 20

covers—and they are doubtless wise to close in Cheltenham Gold Cup week.

Control is correspondingly easier to establish, and it is worth quoting the *Guide* inspector who worked his way through ratatouille ("the ingredients still distinct in the mixture"); roast lamb, bearnaise with a delicate sauce, simple vegetables, and a decorously dressed salad afterwards; a home-made strawberry ice; prime Stilton; fresh fruit; and carefully brewed coffee. He rose from table after a very substantial meal with a light stomach and a light heart, and a feeling that my pocket had seldom been lightened by a tenner to better purpose". The wine list most recently received includes good Austrian Riesling and red Rioja for light pockets, and for heavier ones some remarkable bottles still under £10, from Ch Léoville-Lascases '70 to Meursault Goutte d'Or '77.

Much that has been written of *Food for Thought* also applies to Robyn and Marion Jones's *Croque-en-Bouche* at Malvern Wells, though here it is she who cooks the *turbot* with sorrel sauce and poulet de Bresse en Bourride that are listed as specialities. The style—and again, the value—is provincial French in character: apart from the main menu, they offer a choiceless five-course dinner for two, with a carefully picked bottle of wine, that only rises above £10 a head if coffee is taken. True, there are still French provinces where such a dinner can be had for less than the equivalent 90 francs, but the point is that the quality and style are directly comparable, "from the oysters and the artichokes with crab mayonnaise to the Caparon d'Auvergne; what a cheese to find in the knickerbocker setting of the Malverns". *Hors-d'oeuvre*, too, are especially French in their "nice contrasts of crunch, colour, flavour and viscosity".

The sense that you are being received into a firmly run but unpretentious private house is an aspect of the experience that belongs to British culture rather than French, and to the countryside rather than the town: the owners' former place in London, the Lavender Hill Restaurant, had many virtues, including the remarkable range of Lorraine wines also kept here, but it could not express their particularities so completely.

That, in turn, is also true of Ann Carr and Martin MacKeown, who 10 years ago ran a restaurant in Islington (the Peacock) that is still affectionately remembered by its customers. They have wandered round the world and their children have grown up since then, but the farmhouse they have settled in, Penlan Oleu, at Llanychaer Bridge in the hills outside Fishguard, has books on the shelves and sheep on the grass, and perfectly expresses an instance of natural hospitality originally learned in Ann Carr's native County Down.

As for the food, "hardly a dish

was repeated in a fortnight's stay and much was memorable,

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Collecting

Lots of opportunity in Paris

In a week or so it's definitely going to be spring. And, as everyone knows, there is something very special about Paris in the springtime. The sun on the tall old trees by the river as they begin to burst into leaf; the mellow ochre stone of Notre Dame turning to gold, not to speak of the things spring does to those narrow winding streets of the Left Bank with their mouthwatering displays of vegetable, cakes, oysters, faience, old books and wine.

In fact, it is a very good time of year to think of spending a long weekend or a week's holiday in Paris. While its most celebrated auction rooms may be food, museums and the Campan, the city also has much to offer the adventurous collector. In particular, the Paris auction rooms have literally no equivalent over here. The operation is wholly different to the monied grandeur of Sotheby's and Christie's, and it's not much like our minor salerooms either.

Some 80 per cent of all auction purchases are made by private collectors in Paris—whereas in London dealers account for the bulk of trade. This, perhaps, explains the wholly different atmosphere. If you visit the Paris salerooms on a Saturday you will find crowds of excited, chattering collectors milling in and out of the rooms. It has something of the atmosphere of a street market, but the quality of the goods is much higher than the *marche aux puces*.

To take advantage of the attractive possibilities, you need to know how the game is played—and beware the differences in French practice. I will try to explain them.

Most convenient from the point of view of collectors is the practice that all the auctioneers hold their sales in the same building. The auction building, "Drouot Rive Gauche", is at present housed in the disused nineteenth century railway station, the Gare d'Orsay. The address is 7 quai Anatole-France, on the banks of the Seine almost opposite the Louvre—dead opposite the Tuilleries Gardens, in fact.

The auctioneers have been constructing themselves a grand new building on the other side of the river which they are due to move into on May 19. The Gare d'Orsay is then going to be converted into a museum of nineteenth century art.

As in London, the French auctions have three high points in the year for which the most important auctions are saved, around December, March and June. At this time, grander rooms are hired in the Palais d'Orsay for the very major sales, though the ordinary auction building continues to function as usual.

The auctioneers themselves—there are 70 of them—have offices spread all round Paris but they exhibit and sell at "Drouot Rive Gauche". There are some two dozen rooms in which the auctioneers hire in turn for their sales. Thus you will be able to view a dozen or so sales all in the same building—one or two rooms are usually not in use.

The normal practice is to hold *grands salons* exhibitions on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm. The goods are auctioned the following day (Monday for Saturday) beginning at 2.00 pm or 2.30 pm. There is also a brief opportunity to view the goods on the day of sale itself, between 11 am and midday. This is particularly important as far as small precious objects are concerned, or anything displayed in a glass case.

During this morning view you are allowed to take things out of the case and handle them, which is not permitted on the previous day. The auction takes place in the same room as the catalogue if any. Either may be applied to for estimates or advice on particular pieces; if you are unable to attend the sale bids can also be left with either, and will be executed free of charge.

The expert in France has a rather different role to his English counterpart. They are not attached to any particular auctioneer and generally work for several; each has a field of speciality and must be on the official list of Drouot accredited experts. Many are also specialist dealers.

The auctioneers themselves are far more theatrical than their London counterparts. The expert reads out description of the lot (technically it is this description that is guaranteed); then the auctioneer, standing up with a dangerous looking long handled hammer in his hand, conducts the auction at the top of his voice. He is ably abetted by the *crieur* who echoes the bids and dashes up and down spotting people.

and some real rarities from Meissen—a sale of nineteenth century illustrated books, and a sale of modern paintings of Oriental subjects. These were catalogued, but there were also sales on view in another eight or so rooms.

The uncatalogued sales can vary from the sublime to the ridiculous. On this occasion there was one interesting sale devoted largely to lace with some very good pieces, and some other textiles thrown in.

At the other end of the scale are the auctions of pure second hand goods, old cookers, kitchen cabinets, typewriters, etc.

Most alluring are the sales

Payment is generally made as the sale goes along. "crieur" collects payment from the successful bidder after each lot is sold. If you mean to buy several lots, he can give a ticket after each purchase; you can pay for all together at the end of the sale. When paid you receive a document called a "bordereau" which gives you the right to collect your purchase certificates for 30 years guarantee.

Lots may be collected either during or directly after sale; there are always parts of staff from the auction office there to help you. Buyers' premium is charged a sliding scale, running from 10 per cent on the cheaper down to 10 per cent on £2,000.

Payment may be made either by cheque or in cash. If a cheque it is vital to establish your creditworthiness with auctioneer beforehand. Cash is easier for a casual purchase.

The other major consideration to be borne in mind is French customs arrangements. Any item worth 10,000 francs (£1,000) or more must go through the French customs once a week experts from French national museums through everything that is abroad valued over this figure to make sure that no treasure is being lost.

The banks are tied in the customs over this; auctioneer cannot obtain payment of a cheque until the correct customs waiver has obtained.

What this boils down to is that if you want to use the rooms for fun and walk with your purchase, it is to make purchases under £1,000. And there is plenty to be had in the £5 to £100 range. Expensive purchases are definitely possible but involve paperwork.

Another small point to mind is the buyer's premium; this is charged a percentage up to 6,000 francs (£600) and 5% over 20,000 francs and 10% over 200,000 francs. You get a premium on top of the price.

Geraldine Norton,
Saleroom Correspondent

Good Food

Chess

Opening time

On my way to control the quarter-final candidates match for the World Championship between Korchnoi and Petrosian at Velenz, in that tip of Austria near the Yugoslav border, I changed planes at Frankfurt.

The Austrian airliner that took me on from that agreeable international airport did not have a reasonable English newspaper, but it was able to furnish me with *Le Figaro* and there I came across an interesting interview with Robert Mallen, the rector of the Académie de Paris.

Come to think of it, the Mallen motto is all-embracing and is applicable to the phenomenon which I have been at pains to point out: the liveliness of the veteran. It contrasts well with the *rébus de vivre* manifested by the younger player in the following game from the 47th Soviet Championship tournament at Minsk.

White: Belyavsky, Black: Geller. White's Queen's Gambit Declined. *Q*-K3, *B*-B4, *P*-R4, *Q*-B3, *K*-Q2, *B*-B4, *P*-Q4, *Q*-R3. With 10 N-Q1, P-N3, P-R4, P-Q3, P-KN3, P-B4, P-QN3, P-KN2, P-B3, P-QN2, P-KN1, P-B2, P-QN1, P-KN0, P-B1, P-QN0, P-KN-1, P-B0, P-QN-1, P-KN-2, P-B-1, P-QN-2, P-KN-3, P-B-2, P-QN-3, P-KN-4, P-B-3, P-QN-4, P-KN-5, P-B-4, P-QN-5, P-KN-6, P-B-5, P-QN-6, P-KN-7, P-B-6, P-QN-7, P-KN-8, P-B-7, P-QN-8, P-KN-9, P-B-8, P-QN-9, P-KN-10, P-B-9, P-QN-10, P-KN-11, P-B-10, P-QN-10, P-KN-12, P-B-11, P-QN-11, P-KN-13, P-B-12, P-QN-12, P-KN-14, P-B-13, P-QN-13, P-KN-15, P-B-14, P-QN-14, P-KN-16, P-B-15, P-QN-15, P-KN-17, P-B-16, P-QN-16, P-KN-18, P-B-17, P-QN-17, P-KN-19, P-B-18, P-QN-18, P-KN-20, P-B-19, P-QN-19, P-KN-21, P-B-20, P-QN-20, P-KN-22, P-B-21, P-QN-21, P-KN-23, P-B-22, P-QN-22, P-KN-24, P-B-23, P-QN-23, P-KN-25, P-B-24, P-QN-24, P-KN-26, P-B-25, P-QN-25, P-KN-27, P-B-26, P-QN-26, P-KN-28, P-B-27, P-QN-27, P-KN-29, P-B-28, P-QN-28, P-KN-30, P-B-29, P-QN-29, P-KN-31, P-B-30, P-QN-30, P-KN-32, P-B-31, P-QN-31, P-KN-33, P-B-32, P-QN-32, P-KN-34, P-B-33, P-QN-33, P-KN-35, P-B-34, P-QN-34, P-KN-36, P-B-35, P-QN-35, P-KN-37, P-B-36, P-QN-36, P-KN-38, P-B-37, P-QN-37, P-KN-39, P-B-38, P-QN-38, P-KN-40, P-B-39, P-QN-39, P-KN-41, P-B-40, P-QN-40, P-KN-42, P-B-41, P-QN-41, P-KN-43, P-B-42, P-QN-42, P-KN-44, P-B-43, P-QN-43, P-KN-45, P-B-44, P-QN-44, P-KN-46, P-B-45, P-QN-45, P-KN-47, P-B-46, P-QN-46, P-KN-48, P-B-47, P-QN-47, P-KN-49, P-B-48, P-QN-48, P-KN-50, P-B-49, P-QN-49, P-KN-51, P-B-50, P-QN-50, P-KN-52, P-B-51, P-QN-51, P-KN-53, P-B-52, P-QN-52, P-KN-54, P-B-53, P-QN-53, P-KN-55, P-B-54, P-QN-54, P-KN-56, P-B-55, P-QN-55, P-KN-57, P-B-56, P-QN-56, P-KN-58, P-B-57, P-QN-57, P-KN-59, P-B-58, P-QN-58, P-KN-60, P-B-59, P-QN-59, P-KN-61, P-B-60, P-QN-60, P-KN-62, P-B-61, P-QN-61, P-KN-63, P-B-62, P-QN-62, P-KN-64, P-B-63, P-QN-63, P-KN-65, P-B-64, P-QN-64, P-KN-66, P-B-65, P-QN-65, P-KN-67, P-B-66, P-QN-66, P-KN-68, P-B-67, P-QN-67, P-KN-69, P-B-68, P-QN-68, P-KN-70, P-B-69, P-QN-69, P-KN-71, P-B-70, P-QN-70, P-KN-72, P-B-71, P-QN-71, P-KN-73, P-B-72, P-QN-72, P-KN-74, P-B-73, P-QN-73, P-KN-75, P-B-74, P-QN-74, P-KN-76, P-B-75, P-QN-75, P-KN-77, P-B-76, P-QN-76, P-KN-78, P-B-77, P-QN-77, P-KN-79, P-B-78, P-QN-78, P-KN-80, P-B-79, P-QN-79, P-KN-81, P-B-80, P-QN-80, P-KN-82, P-B-81, P-QN-81, P-KN-83, P-B-82, P-QN-82, P-KN-84, P-B-83, P-QN-83, P-KN-85, P-B-84, P-QN-84, P-KN-86, P-B-85, P-QN-85, P-KN-87, P-B-86, P-QN-86, P-KN-88, P-B-87, P-QN-87, P-KN-89, P-B-88, P-QN-88, P-KN-90, P-B-89, P-QN-89, P-KN-91, P-B-90, P-QN-90, P-KN-92, P-B-91, P-QN-91, P-KN-93, P-B-92, P-QN-92, P-KN-94, P-B-93, P-QN-93, P-KN-95, P-B-94, P-QN-94, P-KN-96, P-B-95, P-QN-95, P-KN-97, P-B-96, P-QN-96, P-KN

Travel

Two views of the new Zimbabwe

had been California or Jumbo lumbered down the swimming pools and acacia trees. But this Salisbury, capital of the black-ruled country in a

similarly between the d capital of Zimbabwe and America's west coast vane with the touchdown of plane, the first British Air

jet to fly the flag from on to Salisbury since sanctions were imposed 14 years ago.

we taxied in front of the airport terminal a helicopter swooped over in salute—this was just the general election that

Mr Robert Mugabe his side victory. It was a gall for BA, for our pilot—esian—and for all the Is, relatives and well-wishers crowding the airport

th peace now a reality than a hope, British less people are already up for aircraft seats and hotel rooms in Zimbabwe. want to renew old contracts, make fresh confections.

month's trade fair in way is a strong draw, tales are reaching on of business people in Zimbabwe to find must sleep in Bulawayo to commute to Salisbury for

top of this many people attain with friends or relatives in Zimbabwe can now come to visit, and once there, more of the country that possible while the guerrilla was on. Others, knowing the country nor the e, can consider a holiday, can they expect?

ill be some months before new government can be to be delivering the peace promised during the election sign.

From what I heard in London, Mr David Smith, Minister of Trade and Industry in the Mugabe government, is being told that it will take two to three months before the country's game parks and tourist lodges can be re-equipped and re-staffed after the depredations of the last five years of war.

It will be at least the winter of this year before British tour operators will be prepared to market package holidays on any scale.

Zimbabwean tourist literature adequately describes the country's undeniable beauties but effectively ignores the war and its effects.

Thus, should you turn to the Salisbury Publicity Association's colourful brochure, Rhodesia's capital: Salisbury, there is a come-hither section about Lake Mcllwaine.

It is described as Salisbury's "water playground". The lake also happens to be an outlet for the capital's sewage and bathers risk bilharzia, a particularly water-borne disease.

That may rank as pretty run-of-the-mill as references goes in sub-tropical tourist literature, although the claim that "fishing here is excellent, particularly for bream and tiger fish", is true.

It is also true, however, that African poachers are out in force to filch bream for Salisbury's restaurants. The warden and his staff, deployed by army service, have been hard put to stop them.

In time, some attractive packe four are going to be put together. These will probably be split between Salisbury and, say, Victoria Falls, Lake Kariba or Wankie National Park. Zimbabwe does not have a coastline and the British visitor is likely to yearn for water, even in inland, man-made stretch which most Zimbabwean lakes are.

This is a beautiful country and has long had a tourist industry based on visitors from South Africa and, until the outbreak of war, from neighbouring black states. Zimbabweans, black and white, are keen to replenish foreign exchange reserves eaten up by the guerrilla war and sanctions—which among other things have had a devastating effect on the price of petrol.

They seem determined not to market the country in a big way until the hotel and recreation infrastructure is up to it. That, I think, won't take long: I know I should like to return soon and see as much of the new Zimbabwe as I can.

Ross Davies



Elephants in the long grass on the shores of Lake Kariba.

Photograph by Brian Harris

One beauty spot that many visitors to the new Zimbabwe will make for is Lake Kariba, on the border with Zambia. It was built in the late 50s—mainly for a hydro-electric scheme providing power to both countries—by damming the Zambezi river. At number of hillocks that had been a huge valley were transformed into islands as the water rose. Two became sanctuaries for wildlife, oases of peace and tranquility.

Rupert Forthergill was one of the naturalists who master-minded this "Operation Noah". More than 6,000 animals, including 1,866 impala, but only one bush baby, were sent packing to higher ground on what are now Fothergill Island and the neighbouring Spurting Island.

Fothergill Island is owned by Rob Flynn, who holds a civil engineering degree from Bristol University. He runs it for people to get close to nature

without intruding. Visitors stay in traditional Batoka huts (named after the displaced local tribespeople), with no electricity and only a hurricane lamp for light.

Morning comes early in these parts. You are within the Tropic of Capricorn and only 800 miles south of the equator. Leave your alarm clock at home and let the fish eagles and goliath herons wake you. Dawn over the lake, with its Zambezi escarpment backdrop, is an experience you should not miss along with dawn in the rain forest at Victoria Falls.

As the day begins the smell of smoked food drifts over you from the nearby village, where the island's 100 workers live. Breakfast is taken in Rob Flynn's first island building, an enormous wood and thatch structure with the restaurant downstairs and the bar/observation area above.

Help yourself to fruit, fish

and cereals followed by bacon and eggs. Eat well, with all the walking to be done, your energy will soon be sapped if you do not.

For your ZRS35 (£22.00) daily charge (take view but S43) you get three meals a day and unlimited game viewing safaris by boat, Land-Rover and on foot, all accompanied by Flynn or one of his trained guides.

Elephant are everywhere and are particularly visible in the dry season when they go down to the lake shore for water. Buffalo should be approached with caution, but with luck you can get within 30-40 yards.

Hippopotamus take a great delight in submerging 10 feet from you, swimming under your boat and re-emerging up to 15 minutes later, jaws open and water boiling. A quite unnerving experience. And of course there are buck to be seen all the time.

Brian Harris

Gardening Fragrant days

Except when the spirit moves us, few of us I suppose deliberately embark on a special planting programme for winter colour, for cut flowers, devoted flower arrangers undoubtedly do, but they do not always make their gardens more attractive by so doing.

Indeed I have seen gardens virtually ruined from an aesthetic point of view when the lady (or the gentleman) of the house has turned it over into a production factory for their "material".

But I think little conscious planning to provide fragrance would greatly enhance the pleasure the garden gives us. Visual appeal need not suffer because there are plenty of colourfully scented plants.

True, many of the most powerfully fragrant plants are not flamboyantly coloured because they rely on their fragrance to attract pollinating insects. Nature certainly did not include fragrance in the evolution programme merely for the gratification of the genus Homo.

Many plants emit, to us, smells that are unpleasant, even revolting; but with the sweet-scented ones, we can cash in along with the insects, particularly the night flying moths which can sniff out a plant hundreds of yards away.

For the outlay of a pound or so one can buy seed of mimosa which one hardly ever sees these days, night-scented stock (*Mothocallis bicornis*), Virginian stock (*Malcolmia maritima*), sweet alissum, tobacco plant (*Nicotiana affinis*) and of course sweet peas.

Some modern varieties of sweet pea have little scent but many are very fragrant. I notice that Unwin's four novelties for this year are all described as scented. "Diamond Wedding", their white novelty, is described as very sweetly scented.

"Sheila Marquise", salmon-orange, is also scented; "Nancy Colledge" cerise-pink, and "Flora" salmon pink or cream, as sweetly scented.

All the 40 varieties they offer are described as scented in varying degrees; two, "Old Times" cream, flushed yellow, and "Evensong", lilac and blue, are described as exceptionally sweetly scented, and seven others as very sweetly scented.

Their "Super scented Old Fashioned" mixture has small flowers but is powerfully fragrant.

It would be nice to be able to record that the majority of modern roses have strong fragrance. But while many do, others have little or none. The tendency, however, is for scent to be more often than not a characteristic of new roses.

But if it is scent we want there are many old rose varieties with powerful fragrance. My favourite rose, the climbing "Zephirine Drouhin", the earliest to flower, double, carmine, is powerfully fragrant.

The floribunda roses are not generally very fragrant although some do have scent—the white "Iceberg", "Margaret Merrill", blushing pink and a powerful scent, the lilac "Harry Edland". "Dearest", pink, these are the varieties to go for if you want scent in the garden.

Among the hybrid tea roses, of course, there are many more fragrant varieties. Indeed it is possible to plant quite a large rose garden entirely with scented hybrid tea roses. We have "Diamond Jubilee", yellow, "Elizabeth Hardwick", red, "Fragrant Cloud", scarlet, "Josephine Bruce", crimson, and "Northern Lights", cream.

Rawlings Voigt have shipped two from the Dao region: the 1973 Dao Vasco Garrafeira is undulating, pleasant, lightly assertive, easy drinking (£2.46 from Edward Sheldon, Shropshire-on-Ster). The 1972 Dao Reserva is a bigger, cheese-packed wine, evocative of the sunbaked earth, a full style, easy to appreciate but always well-balanced and a firm dry finish (in a 7cl bottle, it costs £2.23).

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Roy Hay

Drink Tasty dozen

It is by the quality of their cheap wines that a shipper or merchant should be appraised. Here are twelve recommendations for the sort of wines those who frequent bars, drinking them raw or cooked, they can also remain cocked up, once opened, for a day or more.

Independent merchants are usually proud of their basic wines. Recently established Haynes & Clarke, whose customers are often budget-conscious but who want wines that are an impression, both for business and social occasions, have a remarkable red, vin de table—smelling sunnily of south-west France, generous in taste, and clean-cut. (£1.75 from Haynes Hanson & Clarke, 26 Kensington Church Street, W8).

City of London merchants Russell & McIver ship a crisp white, Cuvee de Beauchene, from one of their Loire suppliers that has the "green" wine charm and steely freshness of the Sauvignon grape that is probably in it.

Their Gresham Via Rouge is bright red, fruity, with a substantial after-taste. (Both cost £1.44 the 70 cl bottle, or £1.92 the litre, from Russell & McIver, The Rectory, St Mary Hill, EC3).

Avery's of Bristol are famous for individually and personally their labels carry the assurance of a definite house style. They have the skill to find and buy wines that customers have enjoyed for many years. (It should be remembered that, although more and more wines are being bottled in their country of origin, the significance of an AC on labels can refer only to region and method of production—it can not guarantee quality.) Avery's red and white modestly priced "Clochemere" (each £2.19) are good value: the straw-yellow is robust, good as an aperitif or with first courses and salads, the red warmly fragrant and buoyant in style.

True, some like me and my wife emit a noisome smell. But lavender should have in every garden. The large bush "Crappenhall" will make a multi-purpose, for apertif or with many dishes, including on to the market. Leányka comes about £2. (from John Allan's Bodega, 28 High Street, Leominster, Hereford, and soon, from branches of Safeway in the south).

But to me the most exquisite plant with scented foliage is the lemon-scented verbena (*Aloysia citriodora*). This shrub is not quite really hardy. It has survived against the south facing wall of houses in southern England and with the protection of a glass frame farther north. But cutting rose so easily that we can always carry over plants from one year to the next.

In the past we have had two kinds of grass seed mixture—one type consisting only of fine lawn grasses and the other containing rye grass in varying amounts. Rye grass is a strong, quick growing, coarse grass that will stand up to hard wear. It is also cheap but requires cutting more frequently than the fine lawn grasses.

The seeds are large and I have a theory that when a mixture contains ryegrass the birds spot it at once and, while feasting on it, pick up the small seeds as well. I know that nowadays most grass seeds are treated with a bird repellent, but I am not sure that the birds always know this and I wonder if it is always effective.

If the mixture is all small-seeded they do not seem to bother to steal it. I may be wrong but that at least was the conclusion I came to after sowing various mixtures at Hurn, Dorset.

Anyway, after much research, I have found a lovely, dark green lawn using only "Hunter" and that it does not "yellow", as do the older ryegrass strains in summer. It has good resistance to wear and tear and is winter hardy.

The distributors claim that we can now have a lovely, dark green lawn using only "Hunter" and that it does not "yellow", as do the older ryegrass strains in summer. It has good resistance to wear and tear and is winter hardy.

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Pamela Vandyke Price

PARLIAMENT, March 14, 1980

Even a compromise amendment fails to rescue Abortion Bill

House of Commons

The fourth day of the report stage of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill ended with MPs in the midst of a series of divisions. The report stage was adjourned until July 4, the last Friday in the Commons for private members' legislation.

When debate resumed, Mr Samuel Silkin (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab) moved an amendment which he said, might be the last possible chance of a compromise on the Bill.

It referred to the controversy over the adjective "substantially" which had been inserted into the Bill in order to protect the rights which had already been made. It was the extremist opponents who were not satisfied.

Mr Silkin said that if ever sponsors deserted to lose their Bill, it was the sponsors of this Bill, after the way they had behaved.

Dr Miller said the sponsors of the Bill had been greedy and had been taken in by the almost intransigent attitude that because they did not hear another voice, but their own, they believed they had more support than they had.

Mr Silkin said his amendment would mitigate against the word "substantially". The amendment would make it clear that if someone became pregnant, the risk would be substantially greater than if the pregnancy was terminated.

It was agreed to the compromise, which had been agreed to by a majority of three votes, being resisted in the criteria a doctor would have to observe in deciding whether or not to terminate a pregnancy.

A doctor would be required to consider whether the risk to the woman's life or serious injury to her physical and mental health was substantially greater than if the pregnancy was terminated.

Mr Silkin said his amendment would mitigate against the word "substantially". The amendment would make it clear that if someone became pregnant, the risk would be substantially greater than if the pregnancy was terminated.

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Mr George Young, Under Secretary for Health and Social Security (Ealing, Action, C) said the amendment was introduced to give the medical profession the right to determine what was best for the woman.

But if there was some other form of control, such as a committee, that the statistical argument could not be employed. He hoped that would meet the concern of the medical profession over the word "substantially".

It would be better if the Bill was carried in its present form.

Mr Maurice Shattock (East Kilbride, Lab) said that if a woman was suffering from relatively high blood pressure, which was not uncommon in pregnancy, and it was necessary to do an abortion, the medical doctor would hard put it categorically that the woman's health was "substantially" at risk yet the extent of the blood pressure would certainly have increased the risk.

Mr David Evans (Norwich, North) said he was convinced that unless the amendment was carried the medical profession would be excessively cautious.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) said Mr Silkin had done the House a considerable favour. As a result of the word "substantially" being inserted into the Bill, it was felt that the amendment was unnecessary.

Mr Ian Mikardo (Lower Humber, Lab) said he supported the amendment. He hoped that would meet the concern of the medical profession over the word "substantially".

Mr Josephine Richardson (Barking, Lab) said it was significant that since they began discussing this restrictive Bill, and there had been talk about a return to backstreet abortions, the new doctor-abortion Bill was introduced.

Mr John Morris (Devizes, C) said Mr Silkin had done the House a considerable favour. As a result of the word "substantially" being inserted into the Bill, it was felt that the amendment was unnecessary.

The vast majority of people would like to see the Bill brought to a conclusion on the basis of lowering the upper limit for abortion to 24 weeks and leaving it at that.

Mr John Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) said the House had decided after lengthy debate and a great deal of weighing up that the word "substantially" be included in the Bill. They had to be clear. She, therefore, opposed the amendment.

There were shouts of protest and points of order when after the 15min. the Speaker (*Mr George Thomas*) allowed Mr William Benyon (Buckingham, C) to move the closure. The motion was rejected by 147 votes to 140—majority against the closure.

Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman in legal affairs, (Aberavon, Lab) said that Mrs Knight had jeopardized the Bill. The House was entitled to have the advice of a law officer on this matter so that they did not

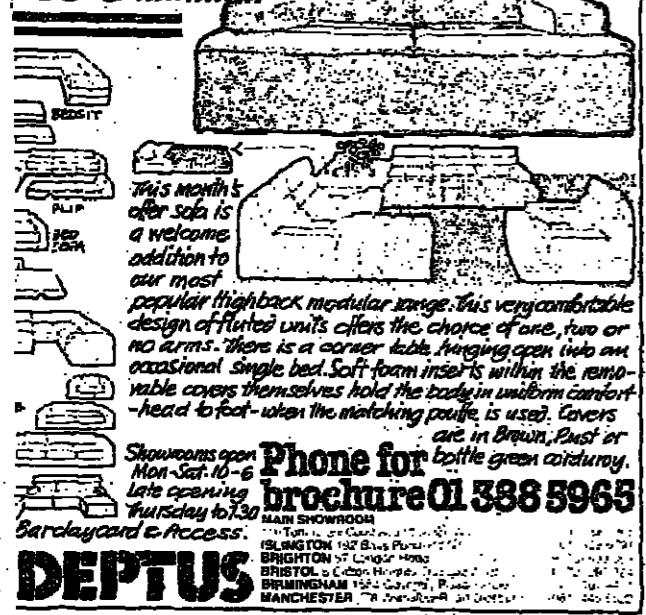
send out legislation which was not comprehensible, fair and just, and did not put the medical profession in a difficult position.

Mr Peter Archer, an opposition spokesman on legal affairs (Wolverhampton, West, Lab) said those who were sponsoring the Bill had attempted to steamroller it through the House irrespective of the arguments.

Mr Bernard Steane (South East Essex, C) said it was unfair to suggest that the sponsors had suggested to specific parts of the Bill in order to protect the rights which had already been made. It was the extremist opponents who were not satisfied.

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deptus

William Rees-Mogg in Utah, the centre of American conservatism

Why the Mormons find a magic in Governor Reagan

US Elections



though Salt Lake City is run on a nonpartisan basis.

Certain conservative attitudes run through Utah politics, neither the governor nor the mayor could possibly be described as big spenders. The objective of maximum social principles for minimum public expenditure is now recognized, but still maintained. In Utah, the social results are good, and the expenditure in city and state is kept relatively low.

Sometimes in the United States one feels that the conservative attitude in politics is pushed to that extreme point at which individualism becomes anti-social. The basic ideas of American conservatives include personal self-reliance, the limitations of government, and particularly of federal government, the assertion of state rights, sound money, the reduction of public expenditure, the liberty and independence of the citizen, and an old-time pastoralism. These are, themselves, good, but there is a selfish materialism which can spoil them and lead to the squallid car dung next to the sleazy restaurant, to extreme wealth living in fear of angry poverty, to rich white suburban ghettos and poor black city ghettos.

Utah's conservative ideals are almost universally held, even by the Democrats. The governor describes himself as a federalist, that is to say he believes in preserving and asserting the rights of the state in the federation: he is opposed to straight Washington rule.

I discussed with him the contra-

versial regional issue of the MX missile: Washington will have to convince him of the merits of the strategic case before he will agree to support the deployment of the MX missile on a giant racetrack in the Nevada desert. It may have come as a surprise to the President to face a small state's governor of such intellectual range and force; I confess it did to me.

In Utah the results of extreme individualism, which have permitted the disfigurement of some American states, do not follow. I think it is because Utah balances the pioneer principles of independence and self-reliance with those of voluntary social responsibility, derived from both the religious teachings and from the historic experience of the Mormons. Like all pioneers, the Mormons had to depend on themselves; like all pioneers they also had to depend on each other. Brigham Young, one of the greatest of American frontier leaders, chose his beliefs as the symbol of the new state, and a берег is a symbol both of work and of cooperation.

The pioneer period is still very close. The oldest building in Utah dates from 1843. Utah is as close now to its first pioneer establishment as Massachusetts was in 1776; outside the cities what were really pioneer conditions lasted down to the Second World War.

The Mormons also have stable and deep family roots. Many Utah families trace their ancestry back four or five generations to the original pioneers. The practice of polygamy is long since gone, but Mormon families are still large and these relationships make Utah a society composed of stable and interlocking extended families.

Utah has therefore a conservatism in which the libertarian elements are balanced with elements of social

cooperation and with the stability that comes from a communal religious faith and a strong family life. Mormons have to live and have to give their time to the church. Their young men go as missionaries all over the world. There is also a drive for education and betterment; Utah has the highest proportion of university graduates of any state in the union, and the missionaries return bilingual in a wide variety of languages.

Utah will certainly support Governor Reagan at the Republicans' convention, as they did in 1976. If he is the Republican candidate, and he probably will be, Utah will vote for him, as they voted for President Ford in 1976. What is the magic Governor Reagan has for this conservative people, with their reasonable and co-operative view of life?

He is the man they trust; they identify with what he has to say, they believe him to be honest, and the evidence supports that belief. He is like them, a westerner, though he was born in Illinois. The west, like the south, has its own historic reasons for distrusting the federal government—the federal army before the Civil War trained its guns on Salt Lake City from the site that is now the University of Utah—and it certainly has its own culture.

Mr Reagan has always preached distrust of big Washington government spending and he belongs to and understands the western culture. For a long time he has been the acknowledged spokesman of the traditional pioneer view of American society. Many people in Utah would qualify them as good.

I cannot help wondering whether his doctrines, but they like to hear Governor Reagan's conservatism has acquired the essential element of



Governor Reagan: trusted man

social responsibility which Utah conservatism possesses, or the stability that goes with it. Much of the political work of this state, including probably most of the work of the part-time legislature, is undertaken out of a sense of social duty, a sense I find equally strong among the Indians and Democrats in Utah. I am not sure that this language of duty is an equally strong part of the conservatism that is being preached in the rest of the United States, nor do I believe that conservatism of self-reliance can be made to succeed without the balance of the conservatism of social responsibility.

It is nearly 13 years since the passing of the Act imposing and adapting the foreign concept of the Ombudsman into our constitution. The time has come when we can ask the question, where does it go from here?

As a customer—an MP and as a minister at the receiving end in two departments, Wales and defence—I can vouch for its success, though it is on a more modest scale than originally envisaged. Whitehall treats the office of Parliamentary Commissioner with respect and awaits its verdicts with considerable concern.

Unfortunately, the title Ombudsman, and even less so the words "Parliamentary Commissioner", mean very little to most of my constituents. The title is a bad one. Something which has the sound of a cleric's proctor or Northern Ireland's Commissioner for Complaints would be more effective.

The number of complaints, and certainly the number of those within its jurisdiction, have not come anywhere near expectation. That is why, although misadministration is only the tip end of administration, a greater effort is needed in the next few years to sell the office and its jurisdiction to the general public.

The appointment of a non-civil servant to the office killed off the idea that it was a permanent of the Civil Service. Different periods in its development will need different skills, and I hope that it becomes the exception rather than the rule for the same discipline to practice on the parliamentary commissioners in succession.

The concept has multiplied in that we now have a Health Commission and local government commissioners. Unfortunately there has been no attempt to achieve common access, something that leaves the public baffled. The Parliamentary Commissioner has to be approached through an MP, the Health Commissioner can be approached direct, while the initial approach to a local government commissioner has to be through a local councillor, only if that fails can there be direct access.

When the Parliamentary Commission Bill was taken through the Commons, one of its virtues was the requirement that a complaint had to be funnelled through an MP, who might otherwise have feared the erosion of his rights and duties as a pursuer of grievances. It was also feared that without this procedure, the commissioner would be inundated with an avalanche of complaints.

Since then a Heath Robinson arrangement has been devised. When people write directly to the commissioner, the commissioner offers to send those complaints which seem to warrant investigation to the complainant's MP, making it clear that he would be prepared to start an investigation should the MP so wish.

This seems to work in the overwhelming number of cases, but it is still open to a particular MP to block the commissioner, and I suspect there are a few MPs who will have little or nothing to do with him.

Whatever the original fears, the argument about the commissioner being inundated with complaints has now been tested and can be put on one side.

The by now obviously artificial barriers of refusing direct access to the Parliamentary Commissioner should be removed. In any event it does not make sense that when he has his other hat of Health Commissioner he can be approached directly.

In the same way some of the real difficulties which have arisen regarding access to the local government commissioners should also be tackled. Direct right of access. Of course the person with a complaint should first approach the relevant authority, but he might not know if his complaint concerns central government, the health service or local government.

Muriel Foster's Fishing Diary, Michael Joseph, £10.50.

Caroline Moorehead

Bringing the people's champion to the people

our Parliamentary Commissioner relies on the "catalogue" as to what administration is, like us, given opportunities to see on what step, this usually is obvious.

The examples he gives are bias, neglect, indecision, inactivity, incompetence, parvity, arbitrariness, and so on. Sound like an enlarged Dead Sir Alan who was Parliamentary Commissioner from 1971 to 1976; that most of the legislation he covered did not within the most heraldic examples, but consisted one might call straight human failings, and "delay, wrong information, advice, simple mistakes".

The fields excluded in Parliamentary Commissioners have been examined and the last agreement to some extent. What is important is a new office should be established, review again in a stick of experience.

The issue of jurisdiction hottest in the case of the Commissioner. He can be seen as a kind of ombudsman in the case of the service. But when it is the crux, where a judgment is involved, it is a full stop. It is out of jurisdiction.

A general practitioner is investigated because under contract to the service, and is not the Health service committee in the closure of surgeries which can go before the Practitioners Committee.

The provision which the commissioner from getting complaints which clinical judgment was into the Act at the British Medical Association. It is a limitation which since the Commission investigate complaints come to him direct patients in hospitals. Minister of Defence or government control.

There is profound satisfaction with this limit Sir Alan Marrs has selected committee. His complainants' point often feels that I'm half or less than half when I have only been look at part of a case.

In the intervening Police Complaints Act evolved. Here again, public concern. This review of the 1976 Act, we should seriously consider whether there can be an Ombudsman for police officers, a clinical judgment of a police officer, a clinical judgment of a civil servant, an officer of the local authority, the consumer remedies? Are they too

The moral force of the Parliamentary Commissioner is usually enough to govern departmental. On the rare occasions that he is reluctant to act, we recommending an ombudsman, the selected, as the Committee "father-in-God" provided presence of Parliamentarians, and effectively represented.

I am less happy about the effectiveness of the permanent commissioner.

The more complex it becomes—and the trend is steady, increase in implementation of the organisation, the more difficult it is to determine whether he is on his job ability to drive a car, his care, his passion or the structure—the greater the difficulty to counteract this by the champion of the health service or local government.

What of their jurisdiction? Their primary role is to investigate maladministration, and

The writer is Labour Member of Parliament for Aberavon.

That popular Edwardian Lady will soon have a Victorian rival

| DATE | WHERE CAUGHT | WATER | RODE | FLY | SALMON | GRILSE | TROUT | SEA TROUT | VARIOUS | WEIGHT |
|---------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|
| 1923 | | | | | | | | | | |
| June 15 | Eastbourne, Sussex | | | | | | | | | |
| July 5 | Loch Broom, Gleave | Loch an Tighnean | Line | | | | | | | 2 Dots |
| 6 | | Loch a Chean | | Silver Phantom | | | | | | 1/2 |
| 9 | | | | Sunk flies | | 1 | | | | 4 |
| 10 | | Loch an Tighnean | | Olive Dun | | 2 | | | | 1/2 |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | Loch Acharn | 2 fm doubletly | | | | 12 | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | |

The nostalgia that didn't get away

that gives them their charm, particularly as the high quality of reproduction makes it possible to believe that you are actually in possession of the original. Such perfection is expensive: *The Country Diary* cost Michael Joseph £150,000 in printing for their first impression of 75,000 copies, not least because the book had to be taken to pieces and some of the writing where it had crept into folds shifted over, before it could be reproduced.

But a return to nature does not quite explain the overwhelming success of these diaries. Rather it is this insight into the past, this feeling that what you are holding in your hands is a private, never intended diary.

It is the absolute suitability of the book as a tasteful present, with its facsimile faded yellow pages and charming water colours recording a way of life long since gone that accounts for its £13m profits, and the fact that today, two-and-a-half years after it was published, it is still on the British best seller list. It has never been off it.

After this week grandmothers may get a little variety. On March 17 Michael Joseph (who published *The Country Diary*) are bringing out *Muriel Foster's Fishing Diary*, which, like the original, is to anglers, said to be the most numerous single group of sportsmen in the country.

Once again, it is a facsimile reproduction, but instead of holding a naturalist's commonplace book with quotations from Browning and Christina Rossetti interspersed among the daily entries and the water-colours, it is a fishing log, giving the weights and type of fish caught in the rivers of England and Scotland, by a game eccentric and rather majestic Victorian lady who lived and fished until arthritis confined her to her bed.

Her great-niece, Patricia King, who inherited the diary, remembers watching her grandmother, unrolling her nursery window as she made her way across the meadows to the river in her brogues and ankle-length tweeds, "a physically enormous woman who despite her great big hands did knitting and exquisite needlework and left a garden so intricate it had to be manicured". The fishing diary is also illustrated: fish, flies, many birds, a few land-scares.

It is as a publishing phenomenon rather than as an individual book that these diaries are peculiar. When Alan Brooke, the editor at Michael Joseph responsible for them, says: "I instantly felt that Edith Holden's diary was the perfect present; it was very attractive; it had no sex and violence," he seems to be speaking not of a book, but of an object, a charming, gentle possession resolute with nostalgia for an England now covered in tatty houses.

There is a fortune to be made these days in nature books: David Attenborough's *Life on Earth* has sold 350,000 copies; the *Sunday Times Book of the Countryside*, not due out until May, already has commitments for 90,000. The list is endless.

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NOT YET THE REAL TEST

elections held about a year ago a general election tends to badly for the Government. In these standards, South-East is a poor result. The loss of almost 13 per cent inst the Conservatives is seen as those suffered by our at Pollard, Walthamstow and Cambridge in 1967, worse than the swings inst the Conservatives of eight per cent recorded at Macclesfield in 1. There is no mystery why erments so often do badly after the initial good will's out: it is a matter of elecary strategy to get the univeral parts of the programme of the way early. Mrs. Thatcher's Government, more or less, has made a virtue of rigour of its remedies, and a tation is natural. It is one to vote for a policy involving voluntary hardships in future, another to resist the chance express discomfort when in midst of them.

special factors at Southend ed to the Conservatives' difficulties. Their candidate had up as slight a prior relation with his constituency as it possible to have. Voters do not think that they are being

made use of to restore some remote party potentate to his place on the front bench. Mr Taylor has a great deal more constituency work to do before he can count the seat as securely his.

The result was a good one for the Liberals. It is proverbial that when a Conservative administration is losing popularity the Liberals do well, picking up the votes of Tories who cannot bring themselves to go all the way across to Labour. Southend may indicate that this pattern is reassessing itself at a time when the party has come through a bad period with less loss of support nationally than might have been expected. But they started from such a small local base and fought a campaign so much concerned with personalities that it would be wrong to read too much into the figures.

For the Government, the result is less important than it might seem. They have a secure working majority and every prospect of remaining in office for another three or four years. In terms of crude electoral arithmetic they can spare any number of Southends. Morale is another matter. When Churchill said that one vote was enough

he could have gone on to say that it might be better than a hundred. In a party with a comfortable majority MPs feel more at liberty to kick against the official line and nurse their consciences. Thursday's vote in the Lords on school transport is by no means the first sign that even the Conservative Party is not immune to such tendencies these days.

There is no lack of members, both on the back benches and in the cabinet itself, who are worried about the tenor of party policy. Southend will increase their doubts, though there is no body of adherents for a clear rival programme. An incomes policy, for instance, is generally seen as being unattainable in present circumstances even by those who regard it as desirable.

Government MPs as well as voters feel uncomfortable when the hardships of official policy are felt, while the rewards remain, inevitably, still hypothetical. But the Government is secure enough to remain in office until the time when the rewards should begin to materialize. It will be then that the electorate can judge, and will, whether the sacrifice was worthwhile.

UTTERING UP THE RUSSIANS

prospect of continued sales be Soviet Union of subsidized butter from the European Community exemplifies the absurdity which the common agricultural policy has led. Prices have been set so high that they encourage dairy concerns to produce more butter than consumers inside the Community. It is to buy, hence the "butter mountain". As part of the process of getting rid of it, the Russians are offered cut-price butter at prices well below those of the Community. The difference is made up by a subsidy which comes from the Community budget, and thus from the British taxpayer. Britain is the largest net contributor. The Soviet authorities having bought the butter, sell it to their own consumers at something like eight times what they paid for it, thus making a tidy profit for themselves. They, the producers and middlemen gain. The Community taxpayers, particularly in country, lose.

There is little enough reason, best of times, to make the Soviet Union this sort of present or the invasion of Afghanistan ridiculous. But Britain has been alone among the Nine demanding that butter sales to the Soviet Union should be ended. This is partly because

it has been more militant than the others in its reaction to Afghanistan and partly because it has nothing to gain from the sales. (The Russians have made it clear that even when it is available they do not like the salted butter produced in this country.) Countries such as France, Ireland and Denmark, which have butter to sell, the Soviet Union have insisted that traditional trade flows should be maintained. They have criticized measures taken by the Commission to restrict butter sales in the aftermath of Afghanistan. Of the 140,000 tonnes of butter exported last year to the Soviet Union, about half came from France.

Emerging Community policy—or lack of it—reflects these different views. On the one hand the Council of Ministers, on the insistence of the exporting countries, has agreed to the principle of respecting traditional trade flows. On the other the European Parliament, under pressure from British Conservatives, recently passed a resolution calling for a complete stoppage of sales of surplus commodities to the Soviet Union. This has put the Commission in a difficult position. Its response has been to say that the sales will in fact continue, but to imply that the quantity will be smaller than last year's record

figure and the subsidies lower. Sales of up to 80,000 tonnes are being envisaged representing the average of recent years—and they will be almost wholly confined to stocked, as opposed to fresh, butter. A new system has been instituted to allow a closer watch on what goes on.

The European Parliament should keep up its pressure against these sales. But the real absurdity is not so much that subsidized butter goes to the Soviet Union as that Community policies should lead to the need for such costly exports at all, whether to the Soviet Union or anywhere else. The Soviet case should be pursued, not only on its own merits but as a way of dramatizing the need for a more realistic level of prices in the Community, which would gradually reduce the surpluses. Meanwhile more thought should be given to ways of selling off surplus butter within the Community. There are already schemes for selling reduced price butter over Christmas, and to institutions like schools, hospitals and old people's homes. More of this should be done even if it is expensive. If the Community is to spend large sums of money disposing of its surpluses, at least the benefits should go to its own people rather than the Kremlin.

One thing must be remembered. While we have nuclear weapons on our soil we will be a target for nuclear attack. Without these, whatever else may happen, there will be no incentive to an enemy to attack with nuclear weapons if only because he would have a useless devastated land to take over. Our first step must be to get rid of these, coupled with a vigorous nationwide plan of non-violent civilian defence.

Can we still, at this eleventh hour, rise to the need and show the world a way forward in its desperate plight?

Yours truly,
F. T. FARMER,
81 Grosvenor Avenue,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
March 12

SECRET REPORT ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

report on open government, commissioned by the executive Association of First Division Civil Servants, details of which were published in *The Times* on Thursday, concludes "the Civil Service could probably live with a freedom of information act without too much difficulty". This will surprise you who regard senior officials, second only to ministers and armament press officers, in hostility towards openness. Ironically, however, association's executive decided last week that the report openness should be kept for the time being.

would make salutary reading for the Prime Minister, Mr. Maudie, the Paymaster-General and minister responsible for the co-ordination of Government information services, summing the impressive reserves of cynicism acquired during a lifetime in Fleet Street and Westminster, delivered a withering attack on the proponents of an open government during an all-Union debate about press freedom on February 29. Their hobby-horse, he said, based on "such a patheticacy". The more journalists erated the Cabinet and its committees, the more

decision-making would be drawn into ever smaller and more secret groups.

Now that Whitehall's senior administrators, economists, statisticians and lawyers seem recruited to a degree of freedom of information, Mr. Maudie, his Cabinet colleagues and the directors of Whitehall's information divisions whom he coordinates, are increasingly out of tune with a cause that has now all but achieved the status of conventional wisdom. The Callaghan Cabinet, in its dying days last year, expressed itself in favour of a code of practice on open government. The next Labour administration will certainly be obliged by its manifesto to go that far, even if it stops short of a full-blooded statute. The First Division civil servants are preparing for such a consistency on the solid trade union grounds that it will affect their working conditions.

The research paper on which the report was based discusses fears widely felt by senior civil servants. These deserve to be taken seriously. It would be unnecessary and regrettable if the career Civil Service became politicised as consequence of freedom of information legislation. The author of the paper, Mr. Linstead, is right to point out

that the Royal Prerogative and the Civil Service Order in Council, 1978, under which civil servants are recruited at present, are insufficient in practice to prevent ministers bypassing the Civil Service Commission, which has been the guarantor of Civil Service free from political patronage since the late nineteenth century.

A Civil Service Act ensuring that a career official's prospects would not suffer if his advice to ministers was disclosed under a freedom of information act would help reassure Whitehall that open government need not grease a slippery slope back to the jobbery of the early nineteenth century. Estacade, the Civil Service bible of "dos and don'ts", would also need to be amended. At present, civil servants, if they obey the rules, must confine themselves in public to repeating what has already been disclosed by ministers.

The report of Mr. Linstead and his colleagues should be published as soon as possible as a contribution to the debate on open government and a timely reminder to ministers that the issue is not dead in Whitehall, however unfavourably it may be received inside the Cabinet Room.

Special needs in education
In Mr. G. V. Cooke
The announcement on March 3 by the Secretary of State, Mr. Mark Ede, that the Government puts the main arguments of the Warnock report on special educational needs and intends to introduce appropriate legislation in the parliamentary session will, I am sure, be generally welcomed. It is an indication of a balanced view in government circles that the report, if social security needs and deserves a national advisory committee, so surely do all those youngsters whose whole lives may be irreversibly stunted and diminished if they do not receive the best help we can give at the right time. Yours faithfully,
G. V. COOKE,
White House,
Risdonholme,
Lincoln.
March 13.

needed if we really want to end the need to. In the simplest terms, the division is between those who regard the purpose of children's existence as the sport and wellbeing of schools and those on the other hand who regard the purpose of schools as being to serve the differing needs of children. The Bishop of Manchester (March 13) evidently belongs to the first group. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADAMS,
1 Inglethorpe Street, SW6.
March 13.

A child's rights
From Miss Dinah May
Sir, It is heartbreaking that the awarding of child custody almost exclusively to mothers can make divorced fathers strangers to their children (article, March 13), but the passing of those children back and forth between parents in a game of "pass the parcel" surely cannot be the best solution.

Children can usually settle down to a new way of life as long as it holds the promise of stability and security, but where will they find it without a permanent home or continuity of care?

Yours faithfully,
DINAH MAY,
17 Palace Road,
East Molesey,
Surrey.

Many of the most important recommendations (especially those we do with parental involvement and inter-professional co-operation) require changes of some new resources. In other words, we shall be able to do what

Assisted places scheme
From Mr Michael Adams
Sir, The current controversy about the assisted places scheme, which has from time to time found expression in your columns, appears

Peril of nuclear warfare

From Professor F. T. Farmer
Sir, Thousands of ordinary people must be appalled at the increasing talk of nuclear war—not just war in the abstract or war at a distance, but nuclear war in our own country. Do we really believe this to be a credible, acceptable solution to any political problem?

Anyone who has seen or read of the effect of a single atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945 will realize that thermonuclear weapons equivalent to perhaps a thousand Hiroshimas will cause indescribable damage to this country. The result will be unimaginable death and destruction from which it will take many generations, if ever, to recover. Yet every day we seem to read about the brink.

Our purpose is laudable. It is to defend those values of civilization we believe in and treasure, and this we must do. But does anyone really believe this can be done by modern war? A war which obliterates all our big cities, causes indescribable suffering and undermines the whole structure of life in this country is likely to leave very little intact.

Nor does the important question ever seem to be asked, what are we doing to "them" the men, women and children over there, the hundred million or more who may die as a result of our missiles?

It is not time we stood back and looked at the position afresh before it is too late? War has indeed become bankrupt, obsolete. It is no longer a last resort to solving political problems; it is a way that has broken down; is discredited and useless, as was so clearly indicated by the late Lord Mountbatten.

It seems to me that there is only one way to defend the things we believe in, and that is by resisting non-violently any power that would seek to destroy or conquer us. However cruel and aggressive our enemies, our duty is not to kill them but to convert them, and this can be done better by living our principles than by denying them.

There are precedents to guide us. The heroic stand of the Norwegians against the Nazis in World War II is an example. A conqueror can be defeated if the people he tries to rule refuse either to collaborate or to give in. Ten million people in this country with a resolute determination to resist an invader whatever the cost could take away his power and be victorious. This must be our method.

There would of course be great suffering and sacrifices (though small compared with those of nuclear war), and we will need the courage of ten thousand Sakharskys and more. But for our children's sake if not our own we must do it. There is no other way.

One thing must be remembered. While we have nuclear weapons on our soil we will be a target for nuclear attack. Without these, whatever else may happen, there will be no incentive to an enemy to attack with nuclear weapons if only because he would have a useless devastated land to take over. Our first step must be to get rid of these, coupled with a vigorous nationwide plan of non-violent civilian defence.

Can we still, at this eleventh hour, rise to the need and show the world a way forward in its desperate plight?

Yours truly,
F. T. FARMER,
81 Grosvenor Avenue,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
March 12

Sport and ideals

From Mr Michael Ambrose
Sir, Mr. Bernard Levin (March 4) seems to be playing the game of selective quotations in his article "Moscow gold... the bases metal of all".

He correctly quotes a Novosti booklet saying "The view popular in the West that sport is outside politics" finds no support in the USSR. This view is untenable in our country."

But he avoids quoting the rest of the sentence, which says this is "because the Soviet Union and the Soviet people view sport as an instrument of peace, as an instrument of improving mutual relations between peoples for developing and strengthening friendly contacts and promoting mutual understanding".

This is surely a policy which most men would support.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL AMBROSE,
Novosti Press Agency.

3 Rosary Gardens, SW7.

Sales from St Paul's
From the Chairman of the Georgian Group

Sir, All who care about churches and cathedrals will be disturbed by Francis Gibbons' report (March 10) of the sales from St Paul's Cathedral of the Grinling Gibbons ceiling among other historic material. Her story appears to be one of artistic indifference and commercial ineptitude on the part of the Dean and Chapter. Is it not cynical or effrontery to suggest that the aim of these activities was "to raise money for developments such as setting up a treasury to display diocesan plate"? How can a Cathedral so neglectful of the work of a great English craftsman like Gibbons expect churches to lend their treasures with any confidence?

But on this matter of the Gibbons ceiling it is worth asking why, when a huge sum (variously estimated at between £250,000 and £500,000) was spent recently on the organ and the possibility of restoring the Wren organ screen was canvassed, the Dean and Chapter did not at least set aside the ceiling for future use?

Especially when the organ and the screen were the two most outstanding features of the cathedral. It is difficult to understand how the Gibbons ceiling can possibly settle down to a new way of life as long as it holds the promise of stability and security, but where will they find it without a permanent home or continuity of care?

Yours faithfully,

DINAH MAY,

17 Palace Road,

East Molesey,

Surrey.

2 Chester Street, SW1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BBC programme on Welsh arsonists

From the Chairman of the BBC

Sir, You report (March 13) that a number of MPs and others protested on the afternoon of the day before about a *Nationwide* programme, due to go out in the evening, concerned with the burning of second homes in Wales. They had not seen the programme, which had not even gone out on the air at the time in question. They protested, it would appear, on the strength of shock-horror headlines and a story containing various inaccuracies on the front page of a popular daily paper. Am I alone in thinking that critics should first see what they criticize?

And what in heaven's name is the fuss about? Are some people suggesting that the BBC alone should be barred from dealing with a matter of public concern in which 27 houses have been burned in Wales? During the past two months there have been innumerable mentions of this subject in the press and, of course, on television and radio.

Or is it being suggested that while reports of happenings are legitimate, any attempt to understand why these things take place is not legitimate? Since I and many others have long urged that television should become more involved and get rid of its so-called "bias against understanding" this is certainly not a point of view with which I could agree.

Or is it the feeling, which we know to exist, that somehow or other putting people on television gives them a special importance and an accolade of respectability.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL SWANN,
Broadcasting House,
Portland Place, W1.

whether reporting them in the press does not? There is surely an element of hypocrisy here. Did any of your readers who saw the programme feel so impressed that they wish to wish to draw attention to the fact that they were members of the public would be led astray. We believe, however, and such evidence as we have strongly supports the belief, that the public is in fact no less wise than the opinion formers in these matters.

In any event, the sequence which in prospect caused such excitement consisted simply of a silent shot, lasting 21 seconds, of men, claiming to be spokesmen for the arsonists, handing over a document in Welsh, purporting to state their political aims; it was later translated in the studio. The man was not interviewed, nor was there ever any intention of doing so. And such information as the film team gleaned was later handed over to the police.

I am led to wonder whether the argument is really that it would be more convenient for authority if the British public were not told what is going on in Wales. If so, let that be clearly stated. But the argument is that the public do have a right to know, but not at the hands of the BBC, then let that be known to the public.

However, the Department of Health and Social Security has not ruled that musicians, when playing in an orchestra, are "employed". This decision, which arises from their interpretation of the Social Security Act of 1975, is still being fought in the courts, but if upheld may well cost each management many thousands of pounds. Most of the managements concerned are registered charities: few of them could cope with the further burden, and many would be forced into bankruptcy.

We cannot believe this was the intention either of the Labour Government when framing the Act or of the present Conservative Government in upholding the legislation. Yours faithfully,

JOHN ELIOT GARDNER,

VERUDI MENUCHIN,

LENNOX BERKELEY,

FRANCIS SANDILANDS,

R. LEIGH-PEMBERTON,

1 Surrey Street, WC2.

March 11.

Crucial cost of a musician's status

From Mr John Eliot Gardner and others

Sir, As musicians and sponsors of musical activities we wish to draw your attention to a grave problem that faces every professional choir and orchestra in Britain. In the

Consumer law

Small claims in the county court

King the law into your own hands is now officially encouraged. The Lord Chancellor's Office issues a free booklet *Small Claims* as a general guide to the personal conduct of consumer complaints in the courts.

In 1973, the informal arbitration was made a real alternative to the more demanding procedure of a trial and, with the generally helpful attitude of officials, suing and deciding without the help of a solicitor is feasible and on the increase.

Naturally there are criticisms of the system and at least some of these are justified. But, save the independent Manchester Small Claims Court, there is no general forum for the element of consumer disputes. When and how, therefore, should one use the court?

The first and fundamental question is whether recourse to county court is worth it. A conclusion about the rights wronged of the matter is needless if, at the end of the redress is not achieved; satisfaction is not sufficient to recover my adjudged due; enforcement procedures and the bailiff may be slow to recover your judgment debt but the unscrupulous often skilled at the avoidance of payment and many may not have the means to

the county courts deal with the civil law. Matters can be within their jurisdiction which might be suitable for the do-it-yourselfer and include:

a) Claims for debts arising in the sale of goods, provision of services or loans.

b) Other claims stemming from contracts for the sale of or provision of services, for example because of a failure

to supply the goods ordered or in respect of bad workmanship.

(c) Claims for wilful damage to property or assault.

(d) Claims for wages due or payable in lieu of notice.

(e) Landlord and tenant disputes, claims for possession of property and for arrears of rent or the return of deposits.

(f) Claims for damages caused by negligence. These most frequently arise from motor accidents and will be substantial enough to involve the insurers, but there may be occasions when the amount in dispute is less than the excess or the insured does not want to risk losing his no-claims bonus.

In the last two categories it is probably always wise to seek advice of any personal injuries resulting from negligence invariably so to take advice before starting on the sole conduct of proceedings. Citizens' Advice Bureau and the Legal Advice scheme are available for this purpose.

County courts are listed in the telephone book: the booklet and forms are available in their offices. The fees for entering a claim can be added to the claim and are recoverable from the loser, as can certain costs, for example, of obtaining the presence of an essential witness at an arbitration. The fee when a claim is entered, is calculated on a scale of 10p per £1 claimed; the minimum fee is £1.50.

It has been suggested by the National Consumer Council that £200 arbitration should replace the normal trial of a defended case if either of the parties so desire. The first forms to be completed by both plaintiff and defendant contain ready printed applications to this effect and should be crossed out only if the party wishes the case to be heard in open court.

Objections to arbitration may

be made by either party at the stage known as the pre-trial review, but, unless the registrar finds good reason, or there is any question of fraud, he must make the order for an arbitration and direct how it is to be conducted.

For example, it will usually be in private; the rules of evidence may be modified; "hear-say" may be permitted; there may be directions for written statements to be submitted by the parties. The registrar himself will usually be the arbitrator in a small claim and will conduct the arbitration in his office, not in a court room.

So, although not wholly automatic, an informal arbitration is easily available in small claims and provides a speedier solution. Rights of appeal from an arbitration are much more restricted than from trials in court; this accords with the essence of arbitration.

County courts are listed in the telephone book: the booklet and forms are available in their offices. The fees for entering a claim can be added to the claim and are recoverable from the loser, as can certain costs, for example, of obtaining the presence of an essential witness at an arbitration. The fee when a claim is entered, is calculated on a scale of 10p per £1 claimed; the minimum fee is £1.50.

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Objections to arbitration may



After his county court battle, Mr Carter relaxes in the country.

Mr Carter sticks to his guns

When Mr Peers Carter was our man in Afghanistan the barrel of his shotgun was denied when it fell off a Land Rover. In the absence of quality gunsmiths in Afghanistan, he waited until he returned to this country in 1973 to have his Greener gun repaired and cleaned by a London gunmaker.

He collected the shotgun early in the following year, not even bothering to look at it. Later, on January 19, 1974, tempted by some grey squirrels at the bottom of the garden, he took the gun out and saw that the once delicately engraved action was pitted as though it had been attacked by some corrosive substance.

A long drawn-out battle followed over the damage to the gun which culminated in Mr Carter seeking arbitration under the small claims procedure in Westminster County Court. On May 22, 1975, judgment was given against the gunmakers and by early August the dust finally settled on the case when Mr Carter received a cheque for £74.05 for damages and costs.

Mr Carter, it could be argued, had advantages that others who feel aggrieved or

wronged over some matter, might not be able to fall back upon should they also wish to take the law into their own hands in this fashion.

And certainly it is true that as an ex-ambassador (he has since left the Foreign Office to become an interpreter and foreign consultant) Mr Carter was not intimidated by the law; he had access to informal advice from a friendly solicitor and he knew how to set about acquiring independent evidence from other gunsmiths and metallurgists.

But set against that is the fact that his opponent was a sophisticated firm with legal access to both legal and technical advice; at times Mr Carter felt he was being "blinded by science".

In the long run what counted for Mr Carter—and for anyone else who goes along the arbitration road—are two human qualities: determination and a Lancastrian and "I would soon be drowned than done", he says—out the conviction that he was right.

With hindsight Mr Carter's case offers more guidance to defendants than it does to future plaintiffs. It is quite

likely that had his original complainant been dealt with in a different manner, Mr Carter might not have been goaded as he felt into taking this action—which after all ambled on for over 18 months.

The case itself was delayed

by a mixture of incidents but once it got under way Mr Carter, himself a negotiator of no little experience, was impressed by the "endless patience" of the registrar who heard the case in a very informal and relaxed manner and finally decided that the gunsmiths were in the wrong.

Mr Carter reflects that his awareness of the small claims procedure was "part of his general body of knowledge" which he quickly reinforced with a trip to the county court to obtain the relevant booklet.

"Small Claims in the County Court"—good and sufficient in his opinion.

In fact, going to the county court seems to be the simplest part of any prolonged or litigious dispute. And right, or even wrong, clearly nothing to be frightened of.

Margaret Stone

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Investor's week

Corporate fears unsettle market

The storm clouds gathered over the stock market this week as fears that corporate profits are about to take a dive were given added impetus by a batch of disappointing results.

There were few buyers around to take up any of the slack as investors wound out their positions before the Budget.

The slumping of the secondary oil sector and the Australian market also played a part. Wednesday saw the largest fall in the FT Ordinary Share index this year when it closed some 10 points lower on the day.

On the week the index at 439 showed a fall of 15.8

points.

Fears of higher interest rates—and there are thoughts that the United States prime rate could touch 19 per cent—saw investors switching out of the commodities market but there were few signs that the cash found a new home in the stock market.

One bright sector was retailing where an upsurge in activity has been supporting many of the second line stocks. J. Hepworth came into the open with a bid for W. E. Turner while shareholders in both Status Discount and Maple—where the shares are already suspended—are still awaiting the identity and terms of any deal. Moreover, Woolworth's results showed more sparkle than expected.

The focus on small retailers helped such stocks as E. J. Riley and J. O. Walker to gain ground.

The oil sector, however, did not fair so well. Hit by a disappointing drilling test, Shell Esso and group operator Marathon both fell heavily taking many of the other secondary oil shares with them. BP, by contrast, gained a few pence on the back of better than expected figures.

Alison Mitchell

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Gilt-edged shake off Wall Street gloom

The London stock market - in the day following the South African Government's announcement that gold production would be withheld.

A downward drift in equity prices was also accentuated by the prospect of at least two more weeks of the steel strike and a pick up in activity ahead of the Budget. But despite all the bad news at the end of the first week of the account gilts were firmer throughout the day and one or two quiet sectors staged slight rallies during the day.

Oils provided the most in-trust once again, with the major stocks losing ground as continued rumours about increased petroleum revenue persisted and windfall profit taxes were also linked with the banks. Among the second-line oils, the third bid for Viking Oil appeared from Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt's petroleum group at 450p plus one royalty. At one point, the share price gained 70p in 30 minutes but later dropped to 1,050p, an overall gain of 35p. Clyde Petroleum, which announced a good oil find on Block 16/21, gained 27p to 352p while the major stocks slipped back. BP's was the sharpest fall, 18p to 350p.

Mines also started the day badly as the gold price dropped to near \$500 an ounce—its lowest level since before Christmas—but the gold share prices were taken off the bottom after

unchanged at 60p, 236p and 215p.

In gilts, longs bucked the market trend, going steadily better throughout the day, and closed at their best levels with gains of £1. Shorts opened easier with the influence of prime rate increases, but managed to get back to the previous day's levels and closed £1/16 better after a slow session.

The FT index closed 7.1 down at 439.9 with the gradual slide taking place throughout the day.

On the leading industrials pitch there was little selling. ICI lost 6p to 364p in the aftermath of the chairman's comments on capital expenditure, while Glaxo and Beecham both lost 4p to 246p and 118p respectively. Unilever saw a 5p fall to 425p and Dunlop, BAT Industries (still considered a possible bidder for Debentham's) and Pilkington were all

Montague L. Meyer's price also fell back 4p to 116p after its recent bid inspired gains.

MTI Furniture, tipped as a possible bidder for Status Disposal, which was suspended on Thursday, continued to fall and lost 4p to 81p. W. H. Smith, which could also be negotiating a trading agreement with Status over its Homestores division, was unchanged at 145p. Channel Tunnel saw the most dramatic shift as 90p was knocked from the price to 140p as renewed thoughts of a link with the continent died away.

De La Rue fell 25p to 615p as rumours of a rights issue began to circulate, while United Biscuits, which called for £34m the previous day saw a 4p drop to 80p.

BTR and Barratt Developments, both of which are reporting on Monday, had their shares shaved 6p to 326p and 4p to 121p respectively.

On the electricians' side, where Pitco is due to publish interim figures next week, there was

some nervous selling and the price closed 2p down at 130p. GBC lost 5p to 369p and Racal's price was clipped by 2p to 270p. Hoover put on 5p to 145p after fears that its products were being used as loss-leaders in discount stores.

Prices were steady among the engineers with Hawker Siddeley unchanged at 170p and Tubex, which is due to report next week, remained at 284. KGN saw a 6p loss to 260p and Metal Box fell 4p to 246p.

The other clearing banks followed Midland and lost a few pence. Barclays, which is the last of the "big four" to produce results next week was 3p down at 420p, while NatWest lost 2p to 323p.

Schroders, which boosted profits and proposed a scrip issue on Thursday, added 20p to 498p.

Although Bass, among the breweries, shed 4p in the day over fears about Budget increases, it closed 2p up at 216p. Allied lost 1p to 71p.

Mines' shares receded at the beginning with the low gold price but there was some recovery during the day, although Cons Gold was 1p down at 479p and RTZ lost 13p to 360p. The Australians were also victims of the nervousness and Western Mining fell back 6p to 205p. MIM Holdings lost 5p to 220p.

Equity turnover for March 13 was £87.49m (number of bargains, 14,008). The most active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Channel Tunnel, Shell, Imperial Continental Gas, Burman, Consolidated Gold Fields, Lasmo and Royal Insurance.

Sale Tilney: Turnover for year to December 1979, up from £54.43m to £62.25m. Pre-tax profits rose from £1.84m to £2.15m. Total payment from 8.21p (adjusted for scrip issue) to 9.64p.

Latest results

| Company | Sales Em | Profits Em | Earnings per share | Div pence | Pay date | Year's total |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Bridgewater Estates (F) (—) | 1.25 (0.8) | (—) | 11.5 (10) | — | 16 (14.5) | |
| Burdene Inv (I) | 5.37 (5.0) | 0.09 (0.13) | 0.41 (0.53) | 0.25 (0.5) | 6.5 | (1.1) |
| Corder Int (F) | 92.5 (66.6) | 2.46 (1.76) | 27.1 (23.7) | 4.0 (1.22) | 19/5 | 7.0 (1.22) |
| Goodman Bros (I) | 7.82 (6.38) | 0.33 (0.32) | 1.67 (1.58) | (—) | — | (0.96) |
| Midland Bk (F) | (—) | 315.5 (231.4) | 117.4 (88.8) | 12.5 (9.94) | — | 20 (16.44) |
| I. D. & S. Rivlin (I) | 1.9 (3.1) | 0.007 (0.02) | 0.2* (0.08*) | (—) | — | (—) |
| Sunbeam Wolsey (F) | 24.0 (20.03) | 1.48 (1.44) | 13.5 (14.3) | 3.0 (2.68) | 23/5 | 4.0 (3.85) |

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on peace per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.425. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * Loss.

RETAIL PRICES

The following are the index numbers for retail prices, not seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Employment yesterday.

| (1) All Items | (3) Annual rate of increase in 12 months | | Total all manufacturing industries | | Industrial output | |
|---------------|--|--------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| | Items | Lesses | Total | Manufacturing | Services | 6 months |
| 1979 | | | | | | |
| Feb. | 208.9 | 209.1 | 8.9 | 105.1 | 105.3 | — |
| March | 210.6 | 210.6 | 9.3 | 112.3 | 105.4 | — |
| April | 214.2 | 214.0 | 11.5 | 113.2 | 107.7 | — |
| May | 215.9 | 215.9 | 13.6 | 114.8 | 108.8 | — |
| June | 219.9 | 219.4 | 15.6 | 116.1 | 107.0 | — |
| July | 229.1 | 230.1 | 22.3 | 112.5 | 102.3 | — |
| Aug. | 230.9 | 232.1 | 22.1 | 111.2 | 100.5 | — |
| Sept. | 233.2 | 234.6 | 22.5 | 111.2 | 102.8 | — |
| Oct. | 235.6 | 237.0 | 21.0 | 114.6 | 105.8 | — |
| Nov. | 237.7 | 238.9 | 22.5 | 112.5 | 103.6 | — |
| Dec. | 239.4 | 240.5 | 20.2 | 112.2 | 102.9 | — |
| 1980 | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 245.3 | 246.2 | 14.5 | +1.0 | +2.2 | |
| Feb. | 248.8 | 249.8 | 15.8 | | | |

THE ALLIANCE TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

The following is the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. David F. McCurrach, circulated with the Annual Report for the year to 31st January 1980.

Having presided for 12 years and being due to retire from the Board in two years' time, I think it right, while remaining a Director, to step aside from the Chair now. Your Directors have appointed Mr. George Dunn as your new Chairman and we all offer him our fullest confidence and support. He will take over at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

RESULTS

Earnings are almost 25% higher at 10.33p including an exceptional 0.65p of arrears of dividends from Shell Transport & Trading and British Petroleum. Without this special factor the increase would be 17%. Franked investment income rose by £1,286,000 as U.K. dividends were freed from dividend restraint. Sterling unfranked income was down because of a smaller investment in U.K. gilts but this was more than counterbalanced by greater income from funds invested in short term deposits during a period of rapidly rising interest rates. Although overseas investment income was greater in foreign currency terms, there was no net benefit due to the continuing strength of sterling against most other currencies. However, royalty income from oil-bearing land in the U.S.A. was a record at £87,000, which, together with £90,000 received from bonus payments and rentals on leases (credited to Capital Reserve), reflects the present high level of oil prices and activity in exploration. These interests now have a value far in excess of the Balance Sheet figure of £30,000: a valuation is being secured.

Your Directors recommend a final dividend of 6.35p making a total of 10.0p (including 0.65p in respect of arrears of dividends received) against 8.0p last year, an increase of 25%. Although growth of income cannot be expected to repeat last year's exceptional pace, a further rise may be anticipated this year in the absence of any major change in investment policy. Our earnings estimate for 1980/81 already stands at 10.74p.

INVESTMENT POLICY

While our valuation of £154,892,000 did not match the record level of last year this was entirely due to the dismantling of exchange controls during the year which eliminated the investment currency premium. Without the premium at both dates our valuation rose by 10%.

The feature of the year was the strength of oil and oil equipment shares, particularly in the U.S.A. where several of our holdings more than doubled in price. Oil stocks are well represented in our published list of the 40 largest investments. We have added almost £6 million to our Far East and continental equities and over £2 million to German bond holdings, while reducing exposure to U.K. equities by £3.3 million and U.S. equities by £2.6 million.

During its first full year of operations our leasing subsidiary wrote £3.4 million of business with lessees of the highest credit. Profitability is well up to expectations and should be reflected in the accounts as the portfolio matures in 1981-82 onwards.

INFLATION AND INVESTMENT

Perhaps in a final speech I may allow some personal observations at large on the besetting economic evil of our times – inflation – and its bearing on productive investment. The weakness of investment in the U.K. is secondary only to the other evil. A few years ago it was common to speak of the going rate of inflation as a function of expectations. Now, alas, expectations have become institutionalised in a host of devices, outstandingly escalation and indexation. These may originally have had some merit to the extent that, as in pensions, they protected the weak. But they have been taken over by the strong and it was always predictable that they would only aggravate the curse. The big Unions in the U.S. built escalation into their contracts years ago and the going rate is implicit in the starting point for all U.K. negotiations. Now OPEC has taken it over in fixing oil prices. We have reached the stage where we are all the victims of our own simple arithmetic, but at compound interest. And we have a built-in ratchet, perpetuating rises but preventing falls. All this has not lessened, but enlarged, the distortions and strains – and the inequities. There is also the damaging contrast between those countries swallowing the illusion (we are an extreme case) and those few, like Germany, who have not. But above all, coming closer to our own affairs and bearing directly on the future living standards of both the weak and the strong, inflation in alliance with these devices and coupled with the measures designed to counter them, threatens to sterilise all new productive investment. Confidence

flags from utter uncertainty in the face of monetary policy curbing demand. And there is slim hope of any net return over the huge interest cost of money, another bitter fruit of inflation and the battle against it. These soaring interest rates and oscillating currencies have in turn spawned other new devices again institutionalising and compounding the demand. Exchange protection through international currency loans and fluctuating interest rate provisions frustrate normal controls whether "natural" or by central banks. Lenders are not inhibited by fear of still higher rates, nor are borrowers who can buy assets appreciating with inflation. The proviso is crucial. These devices might be commendable if they fostered productive investment. By definition they have precisely the opposite effect: floating rates of the wheels of investment in existing appreciating assets (housing in both U.K. and U.S. are obvious examples) but clog true capital creation, by diverting whatever savings flow there may be away from it.

Against this background the Government's first tentative feelings towards "de-indexation" are to be heartily welcomed. Certainly turning the tide is a fearsome task but the Government has already taken big and brave steps in freezing overseas investment and reducing tax on higher incomes. (The latter may restore the capacity of the private investor but we need now the incentive to personal saving and direct investment by restoring complete fiscal neutrality for all savings, putting persons – and investment trusts – on the same footing as pension funds, life assurance and building societies.) Something even bigger is needed to break the terrible cycle – a total freeze of everything, a standstill lasting just as long as is needed to smash the apparatus of inflation, removing the ratchet and ultimately all indexation, and abolishing floating rates on longer term loans. If this were coupled with a revival of the flow of personal saving for direct investment we should really have laid the ground for solid advance.

THE FUTURE

These rather desperate pleas do not imply any lack of confidence in the Company's future. For the shorter term our current policies of selectivity and specialisation are, we believe, appropriate for the hazardous conditions in which we live and the discouraging outlook for general trade and investments. For the longer term, and it is on this that a true judgment of investment trusts should be made, the record shows our ability to adapt and adjust. When I became a Joint Manager in 1952 we were still 25% in Fixed Interest largely Preference Stocks. We had pioneered in the restoration of our U.S. equities, decimated by wartime requisition, up from 15% to 20% that year and reaching 44% by 1958. In 1952 our net asset value (typically in those days not even noted in the Report) was only 20.20; now it is £2,795. Our Gross Revenue had just passed the £1 million mark for the first time; now it is over £9 million. And the gross Ordinary Dividend (raised from 40% to 50%) was £252,000: the corresponding figure this year is £27,000. Our comparative record may be summarised as follows (the F.T. Index although not entirely satisfactory is the only one available) expressing increases as multiples:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Alliance Trust Ordinary Dividends | 13.7 times |
| F.T. Index Dividends | 5.2 times |
| Alliance Trust Net Asset Value | 14.0 times |
| F.T. Index | 4.1 times |
| Alliance Trust Share Price | 10.1 times |
| Cost of Living Index | 6.1 times |

These results cover nearly three decades of the most violent and rapid change in trade and finance world-wide, as well as continuous tight and changing Government controls and two major restructurings of the tax system, all of these hitting us badly and vastly complicating our task. None the less, and despite the widened discount in our share price against asset value, the long-term holder has been not merely protected against inflation on both income and capital, but well rewarded.

We have today a fine management and staff team supported by the most advanced technical apparatus. I am confident that in today's freer air they will do even better. I take this chance to thank them all, and their predecessors over the years, for their loyalty and dedication, as I do my past and present colleagues on the Board for their counsel, for their tolerance and for their support.

22nd February 1980.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary at Meadow House, 64 Reform Street, Dundee DD1 1JU.

Conder exceeds profit forecast

By Peter Wilson-Smith

A two-fifths increase in pre-tax profits to £2.46m from Conder International in the year to December 31 was marginally above the forecast of £2.3m made when the group came to the market last November.

<p

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

International

I sells
olding in
australian
ompany

he sell-off of Tube Investments' peripheral businesses had a stage further yesterday when it announced the sale its 15 per cent holding in makers of Australia for £3m (£11.3m). Proprietary, Australia's leading company, already has a substantial rest in Tubemakers, has wired a fifth of its holding the balance has been evenly placed with local investors.

Explaining the move, TI said trading links between makers and its own tube companies in the United Kingdom had decreased in recent years and "the holding has sed to be of strategic importance".

Tubemakers, which is treated an associate company in the accounts, had a value of £6m in the 1978 annual report when it was referred to "a long-term trading venture".

The move, however, is likely to be interpreted as a part of TI's strategy to boost its exposure in the United Kingdom.

Crane Packing up. Last December TI raised through the sale of half in a joint company with General Electric of America.

last week TI's full-year

ures are due and are likely

to show a fall from £80m to

m-£55m pretax after the

age caused by the engine-

ing strike.

vert discussions

he Italian Olivetti group is

negotiations about possible co-

sition in computers. The

are part of the EEC and

discussions of market

share for office computers

have been prompted by

industry communica-

tion. Davigato.

eller rumours that Saint

in Olivetti have been dis-

closed sharply on the Man-

se after news that the

pany is to resume dividend

news after five-year gap.

asubishi outlook

hysical Chemical Industries said it expects to profit tax and special items in

year ending next January

decline slightly to about

70m yen (about £32m) from

10m last year on sales up

about 800,000m yen from

300m.

he company is unable to

cast the size of after-tax

it this year because of

severe economic circum-

ances, including higher oil

and a rise in domestic

ret rates.

100 merger talks

ndor of Switzerland said it

to meet with the board

McCormick and Cos in Balti-

ore on Monday to discuss a

ible merger.

ndor said it was fully

ared to hear McCormick's

s about the financial

ts of its off and to con-

them Sandoz has offered

a share for McCormick.

100 dividend up.

ndra, the West German

chemicals

ised a 100 per cent rise

growth in earnings in

79 (£437m) from

86m in 1978. This would enable

company to raise the 1979

end to £3m from Dm5

77.

Wall Street

New York, March 14.—Stock prices continued yesterday's late slide in active trading this morning as the prime rate edged higher.

Cuban and others raised their prime rates to 16½ per cent from 17½, leapfrogging over the 18½ per cent level posted yesterday by Chase Manhattan Bank and several others.

Analysts said there was some scepticism that President Carter's anti-inflation plan will be forceful enough to check inflation and stabilize markets.

Declines led advances nearly

to one and the Dow Jones

industrial average dropped five

points down to 808.56.

Silver 1.2c limit down

Chicago, March 15.—SILVER futures closed locked down the expanded 1.2c limit in all contracts except the limit up. The price fell 1.2c to \$1.055 an ounce at \$25.70.

Chicago and other foreign exchanges reported the effect of President Carter's new 10 per cent import surcharge tomorrow—March 16.

Aug. 31, '80, asked Dec. 267.00; asked

250.00; asked Aug. 351.00; asked

350.00; asked April 350.00; asked

350.00; asked June 383.00; asked

350.00; asked Sept. 370.00; asked

350.00; asked

Stock Exchange Prices **Equities drift**

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 10. Dealings End, March 21. § Contango Day, March 24. Settlement Day, March 31.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

SPORT.

Ice skating



Bouquets for a loser: Robin Cousins with supporter after his silver medal performance.

Returning to earth after Cousins

From John Hemmings

Dortmund, March 14

After the excitement of the night before, comes a cold realization that the morning after that we have seen the last of Robin Cousins as a competitive skater. It is a sad prospect. I cannot recall the same mood of depression on the corresponding night of the year after the end of "Curry's year".

Perhaps it is because of Cousins' spine-splitting success in the free skating section last night. Perhaps it is because one warm more to him as a person and certainly to the loyal fans who gather round him. But he is a developing 17-year-old and from our still younger pair of skaters, Susan Garland (15) and Robert Durkan (16).

Cousins leaves the scene with a glorious flourish. "The best free skating I've ever done in my life," he said afterwards. He was not too disappointed at missing the World title, because "I had my fair share this year. I've won seven out of eight competitions. I was out of contention", he said.

But perhaps, at base, one is haunted by the thought that there is no obvious successor in sight. It is a measure of the poverty of talents at home that whereas we were entitled to a new star as a result of Cousins' second place last year, he, in fact, is unaccompanied.

Four years ago, Cousins' talent was already so advanced, at 18, that he was at Lake Placid, where he had won at Lake Placid, in spite of, for him, a disappointing free skating programme. Here he had lost the gold medal, in spite of five minutes of sheer magic that created instant Bealemania. Young girls were prepared to hang almost from the rafters afterwards in order to get a glimpse of their new young hero.

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL: 1. J. Hoffmann (GB), 11 places; 2. R. Cousins (Switzerland), 17-18; 3. D. Göttsche (West Germany), 18-19; 4. S. Yamamoto (Japan), 18-19; 5. T. Yamada (Japan), 18-19; 6. M. Thompson (GB), 18-19; 7. K. Kihara (Japan), 18-19; 8. T. Anton (USA), 18-19; 9. N. Suzuki (Japan), 18-19; 10. P. Thompson (Australia), 18-19; 11. T. Horncastle (GB) withdrew because of illness.

BADMINTON: Indian Open: 1. N. Cox (US), 22, 68; 2. P. Sivaraman (India), 22, 68; 3. P. Patel (India), 22, 68; 4. D. Daniel (USA), 22, 68; 5. S. Berling (USA), 22, 68; 6. G. Palmer (USA), 22, 68; 7. J. Carter (British Virgin Islands), 22, 68; 8. E. Blush (USA), 22, 68; 9. M. McEvoy (South Africa), 22, 68; 10. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 11. T. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 12. A. Saito (Japan), 22, 68; 13. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 14. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 15. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 16. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 17. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 18. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 19. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 20. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 21. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 22. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 23. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 24. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 25. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 26. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 27. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 28. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 29. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 30. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 31. S. Yamada (Japan), 22, 68; 32. S. 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Report March 14 1980

Discretion goes beyond exceptional cases

John v. Norwest Holst

Ltd. Lord Justice Lawton, Lord

Lord and Lord Justice

counsel 2D of the Limitation

1939, as amended by the

Limitation Act 1973, cannot and

cannot be read in any respect

sense so as to apply only to

exceptional cases.

A Court of Appeal dismissed

appeal by the defendants

West Holst Southern Limited,

Judge Vowden, who in

the London Court on November

12, 1979, dismissed the appeal

of the defendants from the regis-

ter of trademarks, held their ap-

peal to strike out the par-

ticulars laid in an action for dam-

age for personal injuries brought

at them by the plaintiff, Mr

Joseph Simpson, and to dis-

miss the action. The defendants

sought to strike out Mr

Simpson's action on the ground

that the facts and matters raised

in the issue of the case were not

within the Limitation Act,

1939 (as

provided); "Section 2A (1)

section applies to any action

for negligence

which may . . . where the

plaintiff . . . include damages in respect

personal injuries . . . (3) Sub-

to section 2D below, an action

which this section applies shall

be brought after the expiration

of the period specified in (sub-

s. 2A (4)) . . . the period of (a)

three years from the (a)

date on which the cause of

(b) the date (if

of the plaintiff's knowl-

edge are referred to the

on which he first had knowl-

of . . . (c) the identity of

defendant . . .

action 2D(1). If it appears

to the court that it would be

unfair to allow the action to be

brought having regard to the de-

to which the provisions of

in 2A . . . prejudice the

. . . , and (b) any decision

a court under this subsection

1 precludes the defendant . . .

. . . that these

shall not apply to the

1.

Michael Turner, QC, and

David Pates for the defend-

; Mr Adrian Palmer for Mr

Son.

RD JUSTICE LAWTON, read-

ing the judgment of the court,

be

immigration outside Sex Discrimination Act

is a Immigration Appeal

. Ex parte Kessam,

. Lord Justice Stephenson,

Justice Ackner and Sir David

s II to IV of the Sex Dis-

mination Act, 1975, exhaust the

instances in which sex dis-

, as explained in Part

. The Act is unlawful; accord-

. since the Home Secre-

. under the Immigration

. and the rules made

under is not a person" con-

. facilities . . . to the

. within the meaning

. Section 29(1) of the Sex Dis-

. The Act has no ap-

. to his decisions in that

Court of Appeal dismissed

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. provision (for payment

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. to the public to discriminate

. a woman who seeks to

. or use those goods, facil-

. services—(a) by refusing to

. deliberately omitting to pro-

. provide her with any of them, or

. by refusing or deliberately

omitting to provide her with

goods, facilities or services of the

like quality, in the like manner

and on the like terms as are nor-

mal in his case in relation to male

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